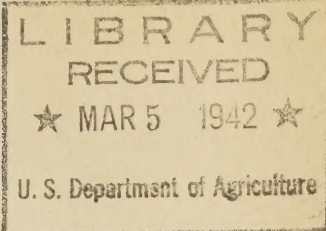


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics



OPERATING REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF STATE AND LOCAL PLANNING
COVERING THE COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PLANNING PROGRAM
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1941

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I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The immediate and pressing problems of the defense emergency and their manifold implications for agriculture have brought about a reorientation and broadening of the cooperative agricultural planning program during the past year. This has been manifested in the significant new role assumed by State Agricultural Planning Committees in the development of broad agricultural policies and programs of regional, national, and international implications, and in the major attention which State and local committees have given to problems raised by the location of defense and military establishments in rural areas and by the absorption of a significant proportion of the underemployed rural population in the defense effort. All of the basic knowledge and experience growing out of the previous operation of the program has been brought into focus in the rapid development of plans for wise expansion of farm production, for the conservation of human and physical resources in agriculture, and for adjustments to strengthen agriculture to meet unfavorable effects of the defense effort and its aftermath. Significant progress during the past year is indicated by the increasing participation of farm men and women in the planning program, in the further extension of the planning organization in the States and counties, and in the growing reliance of research workers and agricultural action programs upon the sound guidance afforded by the democratic planning process. Appropriately, instead of the term "land-use planning", the term "agricultural planning" has come to be used as more adequately descriptive of the scope and character of the program.

This report outlines the more significant aspects of the planning program which have related directly to the defense effort, the growth of and increased participation in the program, continuing activities looking toward better land utilization and the adaptation and unification of agricultural programs to make them more effective in relation to specific local situations, and the major lines of work carried on within the Division of State and Local Planning.

Credit for the work accomplished during the past year is due in major part to the wholehearted interest and cooperation in the program on the part of farm people, Department agencies, and State and local educational, research, and action agencies. State, county, and community agricultural planning committees, sponsored and encouraged jointly by the Land-Grant Colleges in the States and by the Department of Agriculture, are looking forward now to the year ahead with confidence that agriculture will contribute its full share to the national defense effort.

II. DEFENSE ACTIVITIES OF STATE, COUNTY, AND COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES

Because of the urgency of the defense effort and its importance for agriculture in terms of the adjustments required in production, and the impacts of the war economy upon all phases of rural life, agricultural planning committees in the States, counties, and communities during the past year have devoted major attention to problems raised by the Defense Program. Increasing reliance has been placed upon the democratic planning process to insure the full participation and cooperation of farmers, agricultural experts, and administrators of farm programs in the States and counties in the development of plans and policies to maximize the contribution of agriculture to the defense of democracy, and to promote the necessary adjustments required by this effort.

Information developed by county and community agricultural planning committees during the first two years of the planning program has served as an essential basis for the development of plans to meet these problems. Emphasis which was given during the earlier phases of the program to mapping out different land-use areas, to study of the major problems existing in these areas, and to the working out of programs to promote better land use in the light of the varying conditions found, is recognized now as invaluable to the rapid development of programs designed to meet the defense emergency. The basic information that was needed has been available to show where cropland was available for additional acreage or for more intensive cultivation in crops needed for defense. The location of areas of underemployed or unemployed farm people has been known, so that as the armed forces and rising industrial employment have drawn upon the farm population, workers could be shifted to areas where they were needed to maintain farm production. Unwise expansion of extensively cultivated acreage, as in the last war, has been prevented by the knowledge that increased production could be obtained by wise use of all kinds of land. This has meant shifting acreage from crops not needed for defense, of which there are surpluses at present, to the production of feeds, vegetables, and essential food crops. In special areas where defense industries or large military establishments have been located, agricultural planning committees have performed invaluable services in providing information on the availability of homes and farms for the relocation of displaced farm families, making inventories of local labor available for construction and industrial work, and planning the location of housing for defense workers so that it would be of permanent value to the communities following the close of the defense program. Agricultural planning committees have been particularly active in working out plans for making locally-grown perishable farm products available for consumption at nearby army training centers with a minimum of handling and transportation charges.

Program of Desirable Adjustments to Aid in the Defense Effort
and Meet the Impact of the Defense Emergency

The most outstanding single contribution of the State Agricultural Planning Committees during the past year has been in the development of a comprehensive program of desirable agricultural adjustments to aid the defense effort and to meet the impact of the defense emergency. In January 1941, each of the State Committees was asked by the Secretary to indicate (a) how agriculture could best contribute to national defense and national unity; (b) how the benefits resulting from the Defense Program could be utilized to bring about adjustments needed in farming, forestry, and rural living, to place agriculture in a stronger economic and social position; and (c) how unwise types of land utilization could be prevented. The speed and efficiency with which the planning committees met the Secretary's request have demonstrated the effectiveness and value of democratic planning in agriculture. Working without pay, the farmer members of the State Committees, in cooperation with agency representatives and technical experts of the Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Colleges, developed comprehensive programs which were submitted in reports to the Department within a period of less than five months.

During June, seven conferences were held in different sections of the country for the purpose of summarizing and coordinating the programs submitted by the State Committees. Following these conferences a national summary entitled "Agriculture's Plans to Aid in Defense and Meet the Impacts of War" was prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Extension Service and submitted to the Agricultural Program Board of the Department. The report gave particular emphasis (a) to current defense recommendations; (b) to planning for the post-defense period; and (c) to recommendations for continuing and rounding out a desirable agricultural program. The ingenuity and effort that went into the State reports have produced a reservoir of suggestions which has served as the basis for subsequent discussions with representatives of State Agricultural Planning Committees at a series of regional conferences, and for the formulation of policy statements and specific programs of action by the Department of Agriculture.

Planning for Defense

Typical of the suggestions dealing with special defense situations were (a) the integration of the agricultural economy with the total defense effort by such means as the decentralization of defense industries, careful planning of military food requirements, increased Federal aid for public services in areas of expanding defense population, more adequate fire protection and long-range planning of defense housing; (b) the development of priorities and price control policies, particularly in regard to such items as farm machinery, nitrogenous fertilizer, and insecticides; and (c) greater coordination of marketing and distribution of farm products.

Health and Education

The States showed striking unanimity in their concern for the national health as part of the first line of defense, and recommended that a unified national education program on health and nutrition be developed. Specifically, they suggested such measures as the extension of the hot lunch program for school children, increased emphasis on consumer education, the expansion and extension of AAA benefit payments for home food practices and the improvement of health and medical services for rural areas.

Practically all of the State Committees proposed substantial enlargement of the existing vocational guidance and training programs for rural youth and recommended that Federal appropriations for these purposes be increased. Larger Federal grants-in-aid for all public educational purposes were also advocated in order that rural children might have equal educational opportunity with urban children. Many committees stressed the need of a comprehensive educational program for carrying to farm people the factual data regarding the need for and significance of the national defense effort. Others stressed the need for helping farmers to keep up-to-date regarding the changing economic situation.

Farm Labor

Much attention was given also to the current farm labor situation, particularly in those States in which defense industries were prominent and in which there was a rapidly expanding demand for farm products. Recommendations on this point include the establishment of a unified farm labor program to inventory the farm labor situation, to exchange such information between the States and counties and to make possible placement, employment of labor, and other services necessary to effect full utilization of farm labor where it is most needed. It was suggested, also, that Federal and State employment services employ additional personnel to more actively serve agricultural needs, that additional migratory labor camps be provided for, that the camp facilities be expanded to include better housing, sanitation, child training, recreation and gardens, and that a training program be provided to train workers to service and repair farm equipment. It was proposed, also, that the WPA, CCC, and NYA programs be administered in a manner that will enable enrollees to accept farm work for short periods without jeopardizing their status. A number of States felt that State or county farm labor conciliation boards should be established for the purpose of conciliating differences between farm laborers and employers and that steps be taken to establish a fair scale of farm wages.

Conservation and Utilization Programs

In the field of forest conservation the report expressed concern over the increased fire hazards and wasteful harvesting practices accompanying the widespread cutting of lumber for defense activities.

Problems relating to effective use of soil, water, and range resources were also considered. Many committees recommended that a very much larger proportion of the AAA benefit payments be used to encourage adoption of conservation practices and that all farm agencies should increase their efforts to induce individual farmers to adopt the soil-building practices most needed on their respective farms. Suggested means to improve water utilization programs were the development of supplemental water and irrigation projects and the use of more efficient irrigation practices. It was recognized that the pressure of good livestock prices and current feed supplies might lead to overstocking and overgrazing of range lands. To offset this danger, it was recommended that excessive expansion of range stock be discouraged and that emphasis be placed on a policy of managing ranges on a sustained yield basis.

Farm Management and Production

Most of the States felt the production of home-grown foods and feeds should be extended, especially in non-commercial areas. To minimize the problem of post-war adjustment they advised that any needed expansion in agricultural production be obtained as far as possible by increasing the production of each animal raised or of each acre of land cultivated rather than by establishing new herds or by developing new cropland. Where increases of acreages are necessary, it is recommended that the increases be encouraged on land classified as suitable for agriculture. Several of the feed deficit States recommended action to conserve or make feed supplies more accessible to livestock farmers. A large number of the recommendations dealing with farm management, tenancy, land use, and administration of the Department's action programs specified that family-sized farms be encouraged in every way possible. Many were of the opinion that some form of price guarantee or support was desirable for both basic and non-basic crops, and that such guarantees or supports should be adjusted upward as prices paid by farmers advance.

Marketing, Transportation, and Finance

Another set of recommendations concerned the improvement of the marketing and distribution system of farm products essential to the Defense Program. Expansion of old transportation facilities and development of new ones were urged to forestall the possibilities of shipping bottlenecks. The State trade barriers were recognized in many instances as obstacles which must be removed.

That mutual trade and cultural development within the Western Hemisphere should be fostered at an accelerated rate was widely advocated. Some committees recommended unrestricted trade as a means to this end, while others suggested that trade increases be limited to non-competitive products.

In the field of agricultural finance it was felt that credit agencies should promote those adjustments in agriculture that are dictated by the defense effort, and that credit facilities should be extended in a manner that would avert the agricultural calamities that were associated with certain credit uses during the first World War. Some felt that credit agencies should use their facilities to help to convert small, uneconomic units into family-sized farms. Several State reports suggested that it would be desirable for a single agency to offer farmers all of the various kinds of credit now supplied by the several government agencies, with an office in each county easily accessible to the farmer, or if this is not practicable, that present agencies be housed in the same building.

Planning for the Post-War Period

Looking to the future and to the probable difficulties which agriculture will face following the end of the war and the completion of the Defense Program, the State Committee set forth three lines of activity which they believed will make easier the letting-down processes that come with the abandonment of a war economy. These recommendations included: (a) development of a public works program especially designed to meet the employment, conservation, highway, forestry, housing, hospitalization, educational and recreational needs of rural communities; (b) curbing of economic expansion and speculation, by increasing the efficiency of current numbers of livestock, acres, and machinery, by shifting from surplus or export crops to feed and food crops and by discouraging excessive expansion of the physical farm plant; and (c) by shaping the future of American agriculture through such measures as rural zoning, public acquisition of submarginal and forest lands, increased vocational guidance and training opportunities for rural youth, and encouragement of continued migration from rural areas to urban employment in areas where the current farm population is adequate or more than adequate for farm production.

In general, the State Committees recognized the need for continuing the Federal agricultural programs and offered a wide range of suggestions for expanding and advising national, State, and local action relating to agriculture and rural welfare. Many of these suggestions reflect the need for a rural housing program, an enlarged land acquisition program, better guidance of settlement of new land, increased vocational training and guidance, a more determined attack on malnutrition, and an expanded conservation program. A number of these activities are already under way, while others call for the development of new plans.

Next Steps for the Department

The recommendations summarized above involve action at various levels, including that by individual farmers and by local, State, and Federal agencies. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Extension Service recommended that, as its contribution to giving effect to these proposals, the Department should

- (a) Prepare supplementary digests of recommendations made in the reports of the State Committees which relate to the activities of the respective agencies of the Department, and that upon the basis of discussion with responsible agency officials, statements be formulated for transmission to State Agricultural Planning Committees indicating the reaction of the agencies to recommendations having regional and national implications,
- (b) Through Interbureau Coordinating Committees, give special and immediate consideration to all of the major groups of recommendations included in the State Committee reports, and
- (c) Arrange for meetings between the Secretary and responsible Department officials and representatives of State Agricultural Planning Committees in a series of sectional conferences for the purpose of giving the Committees the reactions of the Department to the proposals included in the report, and of discussing the extent to which they can be incorporated in the farm programs of the future.

The Agricultural Program Board adopted these proposals, and steps subsequently have been taken to implement these recommendations.

Planning for Farm Labor

One of the most immediately pressing problems growing out of the defense program has arisen in connection with the distribution of the supply of farm labor. Underemployment in the last ten years has created a reserve of surplus agricultural workers variously estimated at from two and one-half to five million workers. While the defense effort has not reduced the numbers of workers available for employment on farms sufficiently to solve the problem of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas, local and temporary shortages of farm labor have been noted in some parts of the country during the past year. These shortages have resulted from a maldistribution of available farm laborers, and have been met, fortunately, by shifting needed workers from areas of underemployment to points where they were needed. There has been no impairment of farm production throughout the country attributable to lack of farm labor. However, the defense emergency has presented an opportunity for bettering the economic status of farm laborers by increasing the amount of employment received per worker as the number available for farm work has been reduced. To take advantage of this

opportunity, and to insure adequate supplies of farm labor at times and places when needed, farm labor subcommittees of State Agricultural Planning Committees have been organized in more than three-quarters of the States. Many county agricultural planning committees in all sections of the country were organizing farm labor subcommittees to deal with farm labor problems in their localities as the peak summer season of farm labor demand approached.

The activities of State and county farm labor subcommittees have been varied as local conditions warranted. Major emphasis, however, has been given to obtaining fuller cooperation upon the part of farmers and farm laborers with the public employment services in the States. In nearly all sections of the country, it is reported that these efforts have resulted in a significant increase in the number of workers referred to farm jobs by the State employment services.

Farm labor subcommittees in the counties have supplied information to local selective service boards concerning farm labor requirements, and the availability of farm labor. This has provided selective service boards with sound background information against which they could better judge individual requests for deferment by farmers and farm laborers. Much attention has been given to the problems of providing more adequate housing for resident farm labor, and to the establishment of camps for seasonal and migratory farm laborers. Plans have been made during the past year for intensified efforts to arrange for a better distribution of farm labor resources so as to have adequate labor available when needed during the harvest season of 1942.

Work of County and Community Committees in Areas of Defense Activity

In areas where defense industries and training centers have been located, county and community agricultural planning committees have moved rapidly in gathering information and developing plans to guide defense and army officials in the acquisition of suitable sites, in making inventories of available labor, in guiding the relocation of displaced farm families, in planning the location of needed housing facilities, in assuring the maximum contribution of local producers to the food needs of army cantonments, and in many other ways have swung behind the defense effort.

Several thousand farm families throughout the United States have been displaced as their farms have been acquired for army training centers and proving grounds. Agricultural planning committees in Des Moines County, Iowa; Riley County, Kansas; Jefferson County, New York; Carolina County, Virginia; Onslow County, North Carolina; Calhoun County, Alabama; Ripley, Jennings, and Jefferson Counties, Indiana; Erie County, Ohio; and in other parts of the country have moved actively to develop plans and programs for the relocation of

these families. In cooperation with agricultural planning committees in adjacent counties, surveys have been made to determine the availability of farms for rent or for sale to which displaced farm families could be directed. Surveys in purchase areas have provided information as to the needs of displaced farm families for guidance in obtaining new locations, their credit needs, and their needs for temporary storage of farm implements and household goods, and care of livestock. Arrangements have been worked out on the basis of this kind of information, through the coordinated efforts of the Farm Security Administration, the agencies of the Farm Credit Administration, and other credit agencies, to meet the credit needs of these families. Similarly, families needing temporary storage for goods and equipment, or pasturage for livestock, have been helped, pending relocation, through the efforts of county agricultural planning committees. Preferential treatment for displaced families who might desire employment in the construction of defense plants and cantonment buildings, or in defense industries, has been worked out with defense officials.

Housing surveys have been made by agricultural planning committees in twelve Alabama counties located in the Coosa Valley defense area, in Wythe, Pulaski, Floyd, and Giles Counties, near the bag-loading plant at Radford, Virginia, and in other counties in Ohio, New York, and Indiana. The objective of these surveys has been to determine the need for housing in rural areas and to develop plans for the location of housing for defense workers so that at the conclusion of the emergency, defense housing could be of permanent use to residents who would remain in these areas. Seventy-one houses had been constructed in the vicinity of Radford, Virginia, by June 1941, upon the basis of a survey of this nature conducted by the county agricultural planning committees in that area. These houses were constructed on land leased from farmers, with the understanding that the leases would terminate, and the houses would be purchased by the farmers, when no longer required to house workers in the local defense plant.

Another feature of planning committees' activity in the Coosa Valley area of Alabama has been a comprehensive survey of labor resources available in the area for employment in the defense industries being established there. House-to-house surveys of approximately 30,000 families resident in the Coosa Valley area were made, and the occupational skills of those available for employment were classified in order that needed workers might be obtained with a minimum of effort when needed.

In Brown County, Texas, the agricultural planning committee developed plans for the organization of a farmers' cooperative to supply fresh, locally-grown farm products to nearby Camp Bowie. The committee started work on this project in January 1941, and by June a building for the conduct of the business of the cooperative had been constructed and was in use. The planning committees in

Harnett County, North Carolina, and in several Massachusetts counties have been active in the development of similar programs.

In Barnstable County, Massachusetts, a National Guard Camp has been enlarged considerably after being taken over by the Army. It was feared at first that an area of good agricultural land might be included in the enlarged camp site. Accordingly, the agricultural planning committee in the county furnished information on types of land in the county to Army officials, and enabled the Army to acquire land which would not result in the withdrawal of any of the best lands in the county from agricultural production.

The examples which have been cited above serve merely to illustrate the many hundreds of varying suggestions, recommendations, and plans for action and for cooperative effort which have been made by State, county, and community agricultural planning committees in all sections of the country. The work of these committees has been of incalculable value to the development of the defense program, and has provided the widest possible basis for the participation of farm people in a great national effort.

III. AGRICULTURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE STATES, COUNTIES AND COMMUNITIES

Further significant progress during the past year has been made in building an effective planning organization in the States, counties and communities. By June 30, 1941, all but one State (Pennsylvania), and almost two-thirds of the counties (1891) throughout the country were formally organized and active in the planning program. Additional counties, under the leadership of the State Extension Services, held preliminary educational meetings relative to the planning work during the past year, preparing the way for county and community organization, and furnishing the State Committees with information relative to the estimated cost of family-type farms, the local farm labor situation, and suggestions for a State unified agricultural program.

Membership and Organization of State Committees

Several State Committees have increased their farmer membership, and brought additional agencies into the planning work during the past year. The 47 State Committees had a total membership of 1371, including 565 farm men, 113 farm women, 304 representatives of USDA agencies, 76 representatives of other Federal agencies, and 313 representatives of State and local agencies (Table 1).

The average State Committee consisted of 29 members, approximately one-half of which were farm people and one-half agency representatives. Committees ranged in size from 17 members in Kentucky and Maine to 50 in New York.

MEMBERSHIP OF STATE AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1941

State	Total Members	Farm Men	Farm Women	USDA Agencies	Cooperative Federal Agencies	State and Local Agencies
Alabama	28	9	4	6	1	8
Arizona	26	16		7	1	2
Arkansas	33	13	6	6	1	7
California	25	14		7	1	3
Colorado	33	12	7	6	3	5
Connecticut	28	12	4	6	1	5
Delaware	24	8	2	8	1	5
Florida	37	8	3	9	2	15
Georgia	25	10		7	1	7
Idaho	35	14	4	6	3	8
Illinois	27	12	1	6	2	6
Indiana	22	10		6		6
Iowa	23	9	1	6		7
Kansas	29	15		7	1	6
Kentucky	17	6		6	2	3
Louisiana	29	12	2	6	2	7
Maine	17	8		5		4
Maryland	28	9	2	8	2	7
Massachusetts	34	19	1	6	1	7
Michigan	29	17		6		6
Minnesota	26	12		6	1	7
Mississippi	31	12	5	6	1	7
Missouri	35	16	6	6	2	5
Montana	18	7		6	1	4
Nebraska	19	6		7	1	5
Nevada	30	14	2	6	4	4
New Hampshire	31	14	2	6	2	7
New Jersey	38	18	7	7	1	5
New Mexico	49	18	2	7	4	18
New York	50	28	4	6	1	11
North Carolina	31	11	5	6	1	8
North Dakota	18	8		6	2	2
Ohio	34	16	4	6	1	7
Oklahoma	33	14	4	7	3	5
Oregon	25	8		5	5	7
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island	29	15		6	1	7
South Carolina	27	9	3	7	1	7
South Dakota	31	9	3	7	4	8
Tennessee	22	13		5		4
Texas	43	18	6	8	2	9
Utah	34	7	5	8	4	10
Vermont	36	16	4	6	2	8
Virginia	31	8	5	8	1	10
Washington	25	5	3	8	2	7
West Virginia	29	14	2	6	1	6
Wisconsin	20	8		6	1	5
Wyoming	26	8	4	6	2	6
TOTALS	1,371	565	113	304	76	313

About one-sixth of the farm people on the committees were women. The farm men were usually chosen to represent various types of farming areas, and the women to represent various sections or Extension districts of the State.

Represented on practically all of the State Committees were the following Department agencies: the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Security Administration, the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Farm Credit Administration. In a lesser number of States the Rural Electrification Administration, the Surplus Marketing Administration, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering were represented.

The cooperating Federal agencies most frequently represented on the State Committees were the Public Roads Administration (38), the Fish and Wildlife Service (23), the Grazing Service (6), the Bureau of Reclamation (5), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (4).

The representation of numerous State agencies on the State Committee lends additional strength to the planning organization. In each of the States the State Director of the Agricultural Extension Service serves as chairman of the committee. Also represented on each of the committees is the State Agricultural Experiment Station. In a few instances the chairman represents both the Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service. The State Department of Conservation and Forestry is represented in 35 States, the State Highway Commission in 26, the State Department of Agriculture in 26, the State Department of Education in 24, the State Planning Board in 21, and the State Board of Health in 7. Typical of the numerous miscellaneous agencies represented on some of the State Committees are the State Tax Commissions, the State Livestock Sanitation Boards, the State Commerce Divisions, the State Engineering Divisions, the State Land Banks, and various regulatory agencies.

Number and Attendance at State Committee Meetings

The number of State Committee meetings ranged from one in Indiana and Illinois to six in Iowa, Montana, South Dakota, and West Virginia. Eight of the States held two meetings each, ten 3 meetings, twelve 4 meetings, and eleven 5 meetings. The average length of meeting was a little over one and one-half days, while the total days in session per State averaged six days.

Twenty-six of the State Committees have designated a portion of their membership to serve as executive committees. These held an

average of three to four meetings each. The States in which the executive committees met most frequently were Wisconsin (18), Kentucky (10), Mississippi (10), and Idaho (7).

In all States the Joint Land-Grant College-BAE Committee serves as a work and service committee for the State Committee. Its membership of three, representing the Extension Service and the Experiment Station of the Land-Grant College and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is usually located in the same building, or nearby, which facilitates its conferring about the planning work at any time that the need arises. In a number of States the Committee aims also to meet at regular intervals.

State Agricultural Planning Committees have set up subcommittees to give special attention to such matters as soil and water conservation, national defense, farm labor, agricultural adjustment, rural welfare, forestry, farm credit, marketing, education, and public services. A number of States, including Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Iowa, Montana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Wyoming, have established as many as ten or more subcommittees. Altogether the States reported 339 such subcommittees, or an average of seven or eight per State. On the average, each of these subcommittees held two meetings during the year. In some cases, the work of these subcommittees served as the basis for recommendations on special topics which were included in State unified agricultural program reports. More frequently, however, the work of these subcommittees resulted in the development of special plans and programs, and in the coordination of action to give effect to the recommendations of the subcommittees.

IV STATUS OF COUNTY AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Of the 1891 counties that were active in the planning work on June 30, 1941, both county and community agricultural planning committees had been organized in 1113, while 691 had county committees only, and 87 were organized on a community basis only (See Figure 1 and Table 2). The counties in Iowa, New Jersey, and New York have been organized solely on a county basis. On the other hand, a number of States organized community committees prior to the organization of county committees. Altogether, 1804 counties were served by county committees.

COUNTY AND COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES
CONDUCTING ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1941

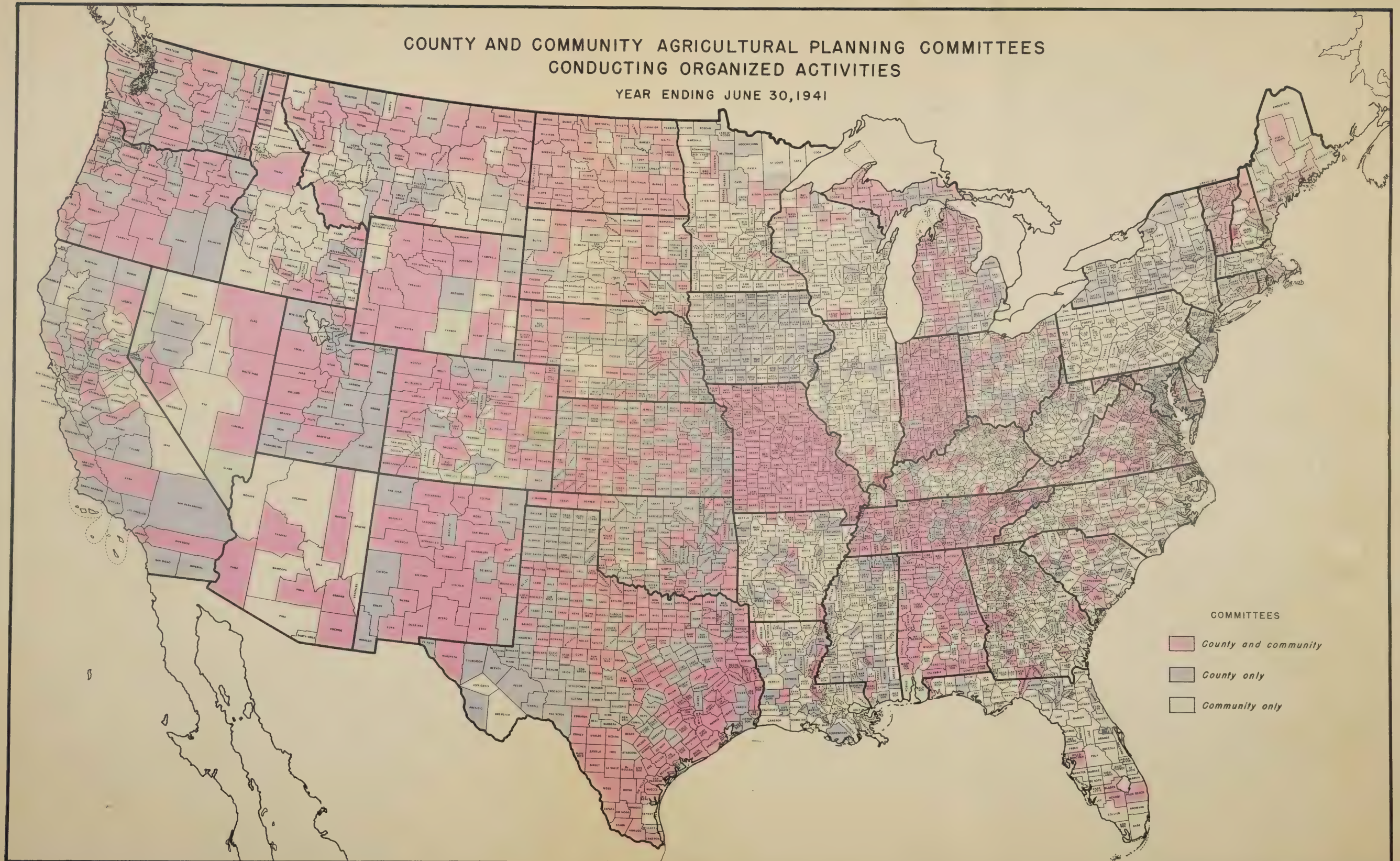


TABLE 2-NUMBER OF COUNTIES ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL PLANNING. BY STATES
June 30, 1941

State	Number of Counties Organized				State	Number of Counties Organized			
	Total	County and commu- nity	County only	Communi- ty only		Total	County and commu- nity	County only	Communi- ty only
All States	1891	1113	691	87					
Alabama	60	52	3	5	Nevada	11	5	4	2
Arizona	6	6	-	-	New Hampshire	7	4	1	2
Arkansas	23	8	14	1	New Jersey	10	-	10	-
California	41	13	28	-	New Mexico	31	21	10	-
Colorado	48	32	8	8	New York	29	-	29	-
Connecticut	4	1	3	-	North Carolina	22	14	2	6
Delaware	2	1	1	-	North Dakota	49	44	5	-
Florida	14	6	6	2	Ohio	49	27	22	-
Georgia	48	30	-	18	Oklahoma	75	29	46	-
Idaho	23	13	8	2	Oregon	36	22	14	-
Illinois	16	5	10	1	Pennsylvania	-	-	-	-
Indiana	92	90	2	-	Rhode Island	2	1	1	-
Iowa	66	-	66	-	South Carolina	17	12	5	-
Kansas	102	49	53	-	South Dakota	39	23	16	-
Kentucky	33	23	3	7	Tennessee	95	74	13	8
Louisiana	21	7	14	-	Texas	251	146	105	-
Maine	16	5	-	11	Utah	29	11	18	-
Maryland	22	6	16	-	Vermont	13	12	1	-
Massachusetts	8	3	1	4	Virginia	44	44	-	-
Michigan	69	49	17	3	Washington	38	18	19	1
Minnesota	18	9	7	2	West Virginia	14	7	7	-
Mississippi	30	3	24	3	Wisconsin	16	8	8	-
Missouri	114	114	-	-	Wyoming	20	15	4	1
Montana	39	25	14	-					
Nebraska	79	26	53	-					

Size and Composition of County Committees

The average county committee consists of 32 members, of which 22 are farm people and 10 are representatives of agencies conducting programs within the area. A typical county committee consists of 17 farm men, 5 farm women, a county agricultural agent who serves as secretary, a county home agent, the FSA Supervisor, an AAA official, a SCS technician, a FCA official, an agricultural teacher, a local government official, and from one to three representatives of other agencies.

Altogether, 57,313 persons were serving on the county planning committees, including 40,002 farm men and women, 7,425 representatives of USDA agencies, 295 representatives of cooperating agencies, and 9,591 representatives of State and local agencies or organizations. Table 3 gives further data concerning agency representation.

County Committee Meetings and Attendance

The 1791 county committees reported holding 5,966 county committee meetings last year. The typical county committee meeting was attended by 14 farm men and women, 5 agency representatives, and 3 non-members (Table 4).

Number and Composition of Community Committees

Altogether, 1200 of the 1891 planning counties were organized on a community basis (Table 2). Within these counties more than 10,000 community committees were active last year. These local committees were composed principally of farm men and women from the various neighborhoods. Incomplete returns indicate that more than 82,000 farm men and women served on these community committees last year (Table 4). Advised by their county agricultural agents and assisted occasionally by the local agricultural teacher or other professional agricultural workers, these local committees comprised a very important part of the agricultural planning organization.

Community Planning Meetings and Attendance

Nearly 27,000 community planning meetings were held during the past year. More than 8,000 of these meetings were open to all interested farm people, while the remainder were confined for the most part to the membership of the community committees (Table 4). Average attendance at open community meetings was approximately 35 people, while committee meetings averaged 15 farm men and women members, one agency representative, and three non-members who were either farm people or professional agricultural workers.

- 17 -
MEMBERSHIP OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1941

State	Total Member- ship	Farmer Members		USDA Representatives							Cooper- ating	State and Local Agency Representatives					Total
		Men	Women	AAA	FSA	SCS	FCA	Other	Total	Fed. Agency Repre- sentat- ives	County Exten- sion Serv- ice	Public Sch'ls and Local Govt.	County Other				
														1/	2/	3/	
Ala.	1333	650	129	55	110	42	22	14	243	12	110	110		79	299		
Ariz.	101	56	1	6	6	4		5	21	3	10	1	4	5	20		
Ark.	414	170	90	23	25	20		4	72		44	23		15	82		
Calif.	844	507	2	41	38	41	34	27	181	4	41	18	33	58	150		
Colo.	1617	814	248	81	37	31	23	34	206	19	53	90	87	100	330		
Conn.	128	65	15	4	4	2	4		14		15	5	2	12	34		
Del.	44	29	6		1		1		2	1	4	1		1	6		
Fla.	284	135	41		23	9	13	4	49	1	23	14	1	20	58		
Ga.	629	321	10	28	38	18	26	10	120	1	57	71		49	177		
Idaho	471	278	34	23	22	9	10	23	87	17	21	5	20	9	55		
Ill.	235	116	38	13	12	12	12	1	50		23	2	1	5	31		
Ind.	4360	3793	84	91	78	33	54	21	277		113	39	47	7	206		
Iowa	1734	1121	138	73	76	34	73	16	272	5	92	50	31	15	188		
Kans.	3151	1950	280	102	102	75	105	41	425		173	129	89	99	490		
Ky.	680	410	51	26	26	12	26	24	114		35	42	13	15	105		
La.	661	220	83	37	57	13	41	5	153	5	56	55	14	75	200		
Maine	83	42	11	5	5	4	3	1	18		5	3	1	3	12		
Md.	679	270	159	22	21	8	31	8	90	8	54	26	5	67	152		
Mass.	144	79	9	4	4	4	5	5	22	1	10	5	1	17	33		
Mich.	1592	1017	16	62	34	15	23	20	154		75	75	25	230	405		
Minn.	411	260	8	20	16	8	9	3	56		10	16	38	23	87		
Miss.	1162	641	214	11	49	25	6	13	104		67	71		65	203		
Mo.	3214	1418	946	114	113	96	76	10	409		213	102		126	441		
Mont.	1060	733	66	33	27	11	6	28	105	19	39	13	46	39	137		
Nebr.	1344	820	112	74	82	31	23	17	227		89	20	22	54	185		
Nev.	135	61	17	2	6	4	1	5	18	12	13	2	1	11	27		
N. H.	134	100	4	1	3		2	4	10	1	15		1	3	19		
N. J.	203	114	21	8	12	5	5		30		22	7	6	3	38		
N. Mex.	1029	618	91	29	50	31	10	53	173	40	47	6	12	42	107		
N. Y.	1030	553	114	27	35	11	16	11	100		71	55	60	77	263		
N. C.	615	336	153	13	16	9	10	3	51	6	21	27	5	16	69		
N. Dak.	1198	856	6	49	49	28	19	18	163	5	53	12	49	54	168		
Ohio	1379	819	134	66	56	32	48	9	211		75	72	29	39	215		
Okla.	3445	1795	893	75	159	65	54	35	388	34	159	66	10	100	335		
Oreg.	607	478	2	45	2	2	2	2	53	11	36	1	11	15	63		
Penn.																	
R. I.	56	37	3	2	2	2	3		9		5	2			7		
S. C.	563	289	102	17	18	15	17	23	90	1	43	17		21	81		
S. Dak.	1148	643	63	44	40	42	79	32	237	5	67	10	75	48	200		
Tenn.	1684	680	317	67	167	16	2	16	268	1	227	167	2	22	418		
Tex.	7476	2870	1362	251	435	251	296	56	1289	7	438	803	219	488	1948		
Utah	2927	1622	572	75	54	26	19	41	215	29	41	66	82	300	489		
Vt.	532	320	110	22	8	1	6	1	38		38	13	1	12	64		
Va.	4112	2308	1174	44	99	26	83	18	270	23	100	155	11	71	337		
Wash.	758	444	55	37	30	21	21	26	135	4	68	6	28	18	120		
West Va.	481	260	41	14	14	5			33		35	42		70	147		
Wis.	578	169	32	26	24	14	19	10	93	6	33	35	104	106	278		
Wyo.	848	359	283	17	24	14	9	16	80	14	22	22	15	53	112		
Totals	57,313	31,662	8340	1879	2309	1177	1347	713	7425	295	3061	2572	1201	2757	9591		

1/ Includes 393 Forest Service and 227 Rural Electrification Administration.

2/ Includes 65 Grazing Service, 57 Bur. of Indian Affairs, 46 Fish and Wildlife Service and 20 Bureau of Reclamation.

3/ Includes 415 Dept. Forestry and Conservation, 341 Soil Cons. Dist. Supervisors, 295 Dept. Public Health and 247 Dept. Public Welfare.

- 18 -
MEETINGS HELD AND AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
ORGANIZED COUNTY AND COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1941

States	County Committee Meetings				Community Committee Meetings				Open Community Mtgs.		
	Average Attendance				Average Attendance				Average		
	Number	Far-	Agency	Non-	Number	Far-	Agency	Non-	Number	atten-	
	held	mers	reps.	members	held	mers	reps.	members	held	dance	
Alabama	66	10	5	1	2066	303	5	1	1	27	58
Arizona	12	7	2	1	161	81	6	2	1	1	27
Arkansas	32	22	2	2/	2/	183	24	2/	2/		40
California	86	10	6	2	965	136	8	3	1	133	29
Colorado	259	14	3	2	4028	942	15	2	2	420	
Connecticut	11	10	6	10	8	4	6	8	2	8	35
Delaware	6	10	4	2	26	4	7	5		16	38
Florida	23	8	5	4	265	130	4	2	14	15	23
Georgia	58	10	5	1/	1126	305	5	2	2/	11	92
Idaho	83	10	4	2	926	164	9	2	4	107	26
Illinois	41	9	4	2/	323	14	15	1	2/		
Indiana	142	21	3	1/	5985	489	8	1	2/	6	154
Iowa	271	9	4								
Kansas	380	16	3	2/	1568	621	3	1	2	706	29
Kentucky	45	11	3	2	1966	298	7	2	1	11	21
Louisiana	47	9	10	2	1524	7	8	5		13	15
Maine	5	3	2	4	5904	345	17	6	2		
Maryland	56	11	6	2	191	34	6		2	18	19
Massachusetts	17	9	7	2	591	146	8	2			
Michigan	105	13	7	4	3996	1035	5	1	1	63	16
Minnesota	31	20	2/	2/	2/	244	14	2/	2/	15	2/
Mississippi	45	12	5	2	292	126	6	2	1	33	13
Missouri	178	37	12	2	12790	1668	50	2	2	100	31
Montana	188	12	4	4	1118	268	7	1	1	319	29
Nebraska	246	9	3	3	1352	308	5	1	1/	186	17
Nevada	31	5	3	3	245	16	5	2	2	16	20
New Hampshire	6	8	4	4	430	34	4	1	1	2	13
New Jersey	41	9	5	5						9	45
New Mexico	209	16	11	2/	8082	255	32	5	2/	324	37
New York	120	9	2	3						16	28
North Carolina	32	20	10	2	2378	399	7	2	1/	8	65
North Dakota	347	20	5	3	3604	3254	5		8	2379	36
Ohio	105	13	4	3	4099	827	8	1	1		
Oklahoma	143	21	7	8	1619	143	6	1	1	98	48
Oregon	140	16	2	1	302	154	4	1	2	68	23
Pennsylvania											
Rhode Island	13	9	4	3	49	10	7	2	1	1	19
South Carolina	26	12	5	3	319	110	7	2	1		
South Dakota	124	13	6	4	1237	478	4	1	3	290	15
Tennessee	231	10	5			2299	32				
Texas	1249	11	6	4	3446	1274	16	3	7	1679	43
Utah	258	18	6	11	885	93	9	2	2	31	50
Vermont	25	16	4	1	1662	190	9	3	1	29	27
Virginia	201	18	7	2	3659	631	8	3	2	908	33
Washington	114	14	8	1	1619	156	15	2	1/	65	30
West Virginia	50	8	4	1/	727	182	7	1	1	117	16
Wisconsin	26	12	12	6	471	219	5	1	1	2/	2/
Wyoming	42	21	7	2	2/	108	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
TOTALS	5966	14	5	3	82,004	18,687	15	1	3	8248	34

1/ Less than 0.5

2/ Data not available

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH FOR AGRICULTURAL PLANNING

Since the effectiveness of agricultural planning is dependent to a large measure upon the technical soundness of the plans developed, it is important that the planning committees have adequate factual information for their guidance. In assembling such data, the State and local committees have had the assistance of local government officials, public schools, the State Extension Services, the State Experiment Stations, the research divisions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the several action agencies of the Department, and agencies outside the Department such as the Work Projects Administration and the National Youth Administration.

Participation in the planning work has helped rural people to see anew the practical value which research can have for farmers, their families and their communities. Agricultural planning seldom progresses very far before the need for technical assistance or basic information becomes evident. Thus cooperative agricultural planning has served to focus attention on the need for, and the place of, scientific research in the development of a sound and permanent agricultural program.

The State Agricultural Experiment Stations and the several agencies of the Department have recognized these needs, and have made further significant progress in meeting them. In addition to continuing their regular research activities, many of which have been shaped in the light of planning needs, these agencies have helped to sponsor numerous service activities and short-time surveys in answer to requests from planning groups. A number of these are described in the annual reports of the various research divisions of the Bureau, and others are discussed below.

Farmers Participate in Collecting Data

An interesting development growing out of the cooperative planning work has been the contribution which farmers themselves have been able to make (a) in conducting simple, short-time surveys, when given a small amount of assistance. Notable examples of this type of work have been discussed in the preceeding section dealing with the work of planning committees in areas of defense activity. Participation of farm men and women in local fact finding has been augmented by the utilization of planning subcommittees, the members of which are usually chosen on the basis of their interests and capabilities. Participation of this sort has had the effect of speeding up research and reducing its costs.

Land-Grant College-BAE Committees Aid in Coordinating Research Proposals

Planning committees' requests for research and technical assistance are usually cleared through the Land-Grant College-BAE Committee, which includes representatives of the State Experiment Service, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and the State Extension Service.

The Committee reviews the research applications, considers the priority which each should receive, and refers them to the proper research agencies for further consideration and action.

Many of these proposals are referred to the regional offices of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics Divisions of Farm Population and Rural Welfare, Farm Management and Costs, and Land Economics. The research projects determined on are generally carried out under a formal agreement in cooperation with the State Experiment Stations, State Extension Services, and the respective research divisions or agencies.

The Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare, for instance, is participating in cooperative studies designed to assemble factual data concerning rural relief problems, the migration of agricultural workers, the status of families on marginal and submarginal lands, the influence of rural non-farm residence holdings on future land use, the effect of industrial enterprises upon part-time farming, the resources, needs, and desires of rural youth, and the orderly relocation of families displaced by defense or flood control projects.

The Division of Land Economics has been cooperating in a large number of studies pertaining to land classification, land tenure, public land purchase, flood control, water facilities, taxation, local government, and rural zoning.

The Division of Farm Management and Costs is participating in numerous studies, among which are surveys regarding the comparative cost of large-scale farming and family-sized farming in specific areas, livestock farming in range areas, the production and income opportunities of fruit and vegetable growers, farm organization in selected counties, surveys to determine the most profitable type and size of farm, and the economic implications of recommended farm management adjustments.

Research and technical assistance has been contributed likewise by other Divisions of the Bureau, the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Security Administration, the Surplus Marketing Administration, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Rural Electrification Administration, and other Bureaus of this Department. Important contributions have been made by numerous other Federal, State, and local agencies. A number of these are alluded to in other sections of this report.

Types of Technical Assistance Received

Technical assistance has consisted of such activities as giving consultatory services, developing fact-gathering forms, training local interviewers, outlining planning procedures, tabulating and interpreting brief field studies, delineating neighborhoods and communities, compiling data from secondary sources, summarizing

and collating pertinent research studies, editing agricultural planning digests, publishing State agricultural handbooks and preparing and reproducing maps and reports.

Illustrative of these services are the advice received by planning committees from tax officials and soil conservation technicians, the survey forms developed by the State planning leaders in connection with the housing of defense workers in the Coosa Valley area in Mississippi, and the relocation of farm families displaced by public land purchase projects in such States as Arkansas, Indiana, and Maryland, the training of local interviewers in connection with the rural youth studies in Indiana, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, and other States, the making of reconnaissance land-use surveys, the summarization of previous land-use studies, and the drafting of proposed drainage laws and of rural zoning enabling acts. Technicians of State agencies and of the Department of Agriculture have assisted also in reviewing the highway recommendations of local planning committees, in making analyses of local agricultural credit facilities, in making studies of local market conditions and transportation costs, in surveying the need for cold storage facilities, and in inventorying the farm labor situation. In North Carolina and Vermont maps of existing electrical facilities were provided by local power companies to help committees in planning line extensions. Group discussion leaders have been helpful, also, in conducting demonstration forums regarding current agricultural problems.

Water Facilities and Flood Control Research and Planning

State and county agricultural planning committees have cooperated actively with agency technicians in numerous water facilities and flood control studies. This has been particularly true in the 17 Western States where the need for water conservation is greatest. Water use subcommittees of State Agricultural Planning Committees have been established in several States in the West. County planning committees have utilized the services of water facilities technicians in developing the agricultural plans for their localities, and the water facilities work has been advanced by the committees' recommending areas for planning, supplying basic information, and reviewing area plans. The local committees have initiated requests for water facilities plans, and the State Committees have worked with the Water Facilities Board in determining the priorities that should be granted such requests.

Local planning committees have assisted also in defining their water problems, and given their recommendations as to the proper solution. These services have been of great assistance to the technicians responsible for the preparation of water facilities plans.

One of the outstanding water facilities area plans developed with the assistance of State and local agricultural planning committees is that of the Republican River Watershed in Colorado, Kansas, and

Nebraska. Water facilities technicians and the State planning personnel have cooperated closely in the development of this project. In arriving at an area plan, the technicians combined the planning committees' recommendations with the research data they had collected. Copies of the resulting area plan were then left with the planning committees in order that the information contained therein might be used in subsequent planning activities. A number of county planning committees have revised their agricultural plans in light of this additional information. In South Dakota, the State Agricultural Planning Committee cooperated with the BAE and State Experiment Station in the preparation of a report concerning "Water-Land Resources and Problems in South Dakota".

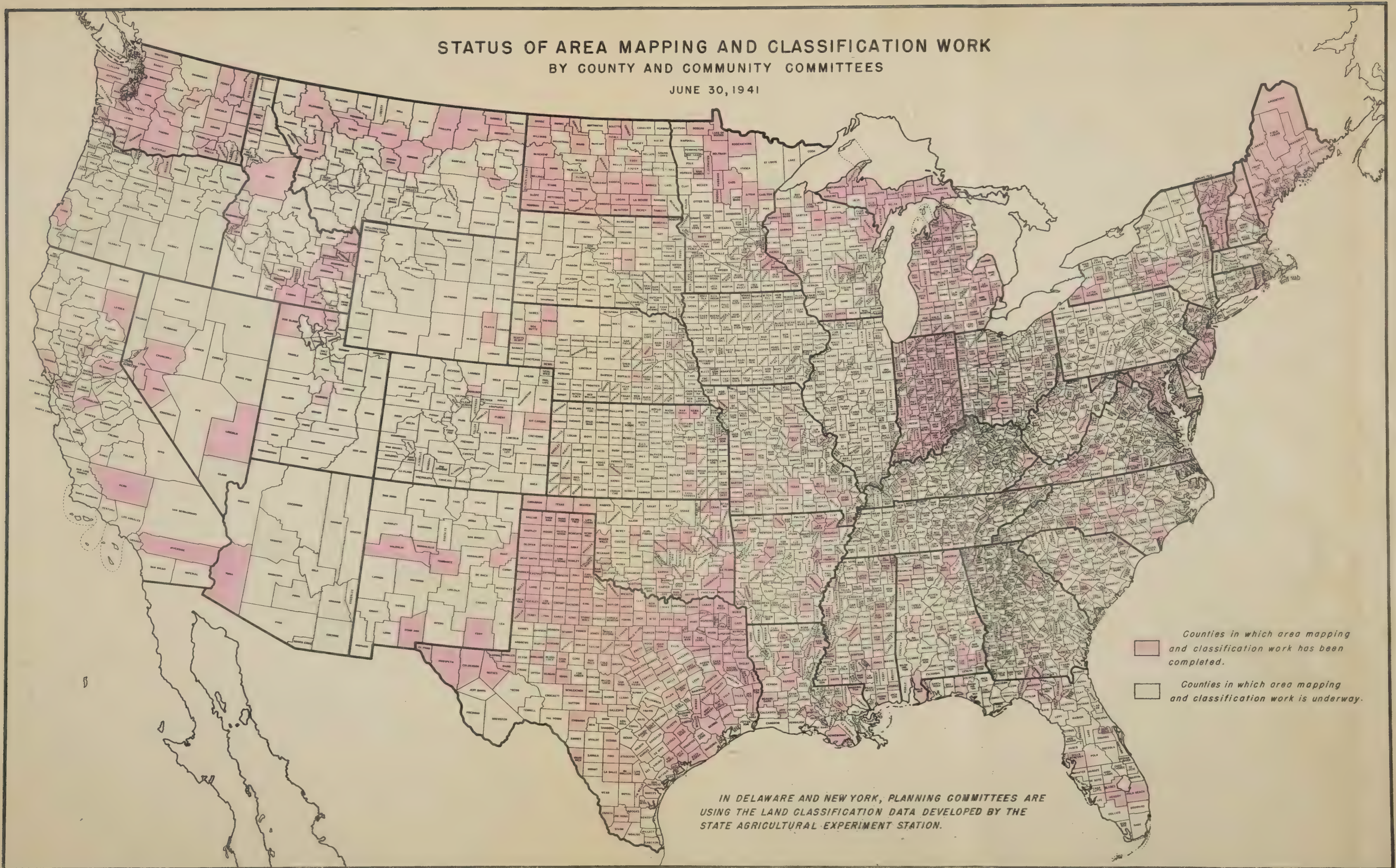
Cooperative research between agricultural planning committees and flood control technicians is being developed in a manner similar to that for the Water Facilities Program. Flood control technicians have met with county committees to explain their program, and to enlist their aid. The committees have information concerning flood control damages, and have presented recommendations for desirable adjustments and watershed protection. Procedures are now being developed to further expedite and encourage this type of collaboration, which is well illustrated by progress which has been made in the development of an area flood control plan in the Coosa Basin located above Rome, Georgia. Agricultural planning committees in eighteen counties in the Basin cooperated with Bureau of Agricultural Economics flood control experts in a survey. Flood control subcommittees were organized to work closely with these experts in collecting information on land use and flood damage, and in working out methods of flood control. A report on this work served as the basis for the development of a comprehensive flood control plan for the Basin, and served also as a basis for modifying the long-time planned objectives of the agricultural planning committees for better land use in the area.

The Agricultural Planning Committee in Merrimack County, New Hampshire, has worked in close cooperation with Department technicians in making an area flood control survey, and has vigorously supported passage of a State law legalizing purchases by local governmental units of properties which have become isolated following the development of a local flood control project.

VI STATUS OF AREA MAPPING, ANALYSIS, AND CLASSIFICATION

The mapping and classification of land use and problem areas continues to constitute an important phase of the Agricultural Planning Program. By June 30, 1941, 1,229 counties were developing or had completed county maps and reports. (Figure 2 and Table 5).

STATUS OF AREA MAPPING AND CLASSIFICATION WORK
BY COUNTY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES
JUNE 30, 1941



STATUS OF AREA MAPPING AND CLASSIFICATION WORK BY COUNTY AND

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES. JUNE 30, 1941

State	Number of Counties		State	Number of Counties	
	Work Completed	Work Underway		Work Completed	Work Underway
All States	789	440			
Alabama	13	13	Nevada	4	7
Arizona	1	5	New Hampshire	5	2
Arkansas	14	12	New Jersey	12	-
California	9	4	New Mexico	6	6
Colorado	3	12	New York ^{1/}	13	16
Connecticut	2	2	North Carolina	17	6
Delaware ^{1/}	1	1	North Dakota	33	11
Florida	11	3	Ohio	27	21
Georgia	12	36	Oklahoma	24	14
Idaho	17	2	Oregon	2	34
Illinois	-	17	Pennsylvania	-	-
Indiana	86	6	Rhode Island	3	-
Iowa	-	-	South Carolina	4	5
Kansas	9	22	South Dakota	2	17
Kentucky	4	25	Tennessee	5	4
Louisiana	14	7	Texas	178	18
Maine	16	-	Utah	3	3
Maryland	14	5	Vermont	14	-
Massachusetts	1	7	Virginia	23	6
Michigan	63	5	Washington	32	6
Minnesota	17	1	West Virginia	7	7
Mississippi	18	14	Wisconsin	15	1
Missouri	15	26	Wyoming	1	7
Montana	12	8			
Nebraska	7	16			

^{1/} County Planning Committees in Delaware and New York are using the land classification data developed by the State agricultural Experiment station.

Except for minor variations to fit local needs, most of the States have followed the mapping procedure suggested in the Department's Work Outline No. 1. In a few States, notably Delaware and New York, the agricultural planning committees have done relatively little mapping themselves but have used the land classification maps and reports previously developed by research technicians.

The emphasis given to area mapping has varied by States and by counties. Confronted by urgent problems related to defense needs, some counties have given somewhat less emphasis to mapping during the past year than previously. These have generally started with a problem approach, with the view of getting desirable action as soon as possible. Such counties have sometimes initiated or resumed area mapping at a later date when the need for delineation of specific land use areas became more pronounced.

Educational Value of Maps and Reports

The area maps and reports developed by the agricultural planning committees have been particularly valuable as educational devices and as an aid to public agencies in developing their programs and policies. The construction of the maps is in itself a valuable educational experience for the farmer committeemen and the agency representatives who participate in the process. They help to narrow down complicated issues to specific areas about which there is local understanding and opinion and a desire for corrective action. They are useful, too, in informing the agency personnel and the general public concerning the conditions and needs of agriculture in the locality.

The maps and accompanying reports are used in numerous instances as a basis for educational meetings and discussion groups. They are particularly helpful in stimulating public discussions of rural problems, since they reflect the ideas of local people and provide a good starting point. They serve also as effective inventories of the agricultural conditions and needs in the county as of a given time, and thus facilitate determination of progress at subsequent intervals.

Maps and Reports Aid in the Development of Public Programs and Policies

Practically all of the planning committees have used the maps and reports in developing unified agricultural programs to aid in the defense effort.

A number of States reported extensive use of the maps in developing work programs for soil conservation district associations. The Farm Security Administration generally has used the maps as a guide in making loans, selling and leasing farms, and buying farms for tenant purchase clients. The maps are being used also, as a basis for zoning by county planning commissions.

The Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service representatives study the reports to determine how farmers appraise local forest and erosion problems. County agents are finding the maps useful in guiding purchasers and leasors of farms. They are valuable also in indicating where public land purchase projects are needed and where drainage and erosion problems are most serious.

The maps are being widely used also in cooperation with highway officials, utility companies, banks, and others. Some States have super-imposed the recommended land use maps on highway, electric line, level-of-living, and other types of maps to improve their usefulness for certain purposes.

Prospective purchasers of farms, research workers, sociologists, weed commissioners and educators and other kinds of workers have found the maps helpful in coping with certain problems and situations.

Previous development of land use maps has facilitated public adjustment to new land use problems and proposals. In Washington County, Rhode Island, for instance, the county committee agreed to the location of an airport in an area now used for agriculture, because study of the area had shown that it should ultimately be retired from cultivation.

Many Types of Maps Developed

To supplement the customary land use maps, other types of graphic material have been prepared to aid in the planning program. Among these are maps showing community and neighborhood boundaries, the location of FCA and FSA clients, tax delinquent farms, electric power lines and other special items. Maps depicting type of farming areas, water and irrigation facilities, annual rainfall, length of growing season and levels of living have likewise been prepared by agricultural planning committees. Effective use has also been made of the forestry, soils, vegetative cover, water development, highway, and other types of maps prepared by various Federal and State agencies.

Distribution of Maps and Reports

The agricultural planning maps and reports have been widely distributed among agency representatives and the farmer members of the planning committees. Copies have also been distributed to local families, leading business men, public school officials and other interested individuals and organizations.

In Genesee County, Michigan, 1,000 copies of the county land use planning map were duplicated by a local newspaper and the demand for the map was so great that the supply was soon exhausted. The County Board of Supervisors has made a special appropriation for printing the county planning report.

VII. GENERAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PLANNING

In addition to the organizational, land classification, fact-finding and defense planning activities discussed in the preceding pages, the State and local planning committees have engaged in a wide range of activities designed to procure a well-rounded program of conservation, adjustment and rehabilitation for American agriculture.

Ever since the cooperative agricultural planning program was initiated, the major objectives of the work have been: (a) to find a more effective and economical way of adapting public agricultural programs to local conditions; (b) to achieve better coordination of the several agricultural action programs as they are administered in the field; (c) to clarify and improve the working relationships between Federal, State, and local agencies; and (d) to facilitate the attacking of agricultural problems on all fronts at the same time.

The very significant progress which has been made toward achieving these objectives is evidenced by the examples of activities and accomplishments which are given in the following pages. Included are such important activities as the organization of professional agricultural workers councils, the scientific delineation of neighborhood and communities, the facilitating of desirable agricultural adjustments, the encouragement of proper land use, the conservation of soil and water resources, the fostering of cooperative enterprises, the alleviation of taxation problems, the promotion of rural zoning, the encouragement of forestry, the improvement of highways, the consolidation of schools, the inauguration of rural library service, and the extension of rural mail routes.

County Planning Work Aided by Professional Workers' Councils

An encouraging development during the past fiscal year has been the growth in the number and activity of professional agricultural workers' councils. Organization of these councils has been sponsored and encouraged by the Division and by the Agricultural Extension Services in the States. Organized under various names, county councils are operating in at least 1,353 counties in 29 States. The activities of local councils have been coordinated in numerous instances by similar councils at the State level. Composed of all the professional agricultural workers in the locality, these State and county councils are serving as effective clearing houses for information and group discussion on a professional level related to agriculture and rural affairs. They aid materially, also, in helping the planning work to get off to a favorable start by assisting with community and neighborhood delineation, participating in county and community meetings and serving

on various problem subcommittees. The members of the councils frequently assist in carrying out definite aspects of the county planning program. In some counties each member of the council selects one community for which he assumes leadership responsibility for the local planning activities. The county councils are particularly effective in achieving greater coordination of the activities of the several agricultural agencies. Regular monthly meetings are held in many counties. The collaboration resulting from these meetings has enabled the county and community committees to make more effective use of their planning meetings.

Community and Neighborhood Delineation

Numerous counties in approximately 20 States have given special attention to community and neighborhood delineation as a means of determining the most logical geographic areas for local planning purposes. In several States, notably North Carolina and Virginia, State planning leaders are stressing this delineation work as one of the first steps in the county planning procedure. Others have used it as a basis for reconstituting local planning committees and revitalizing committee participation.

By using the natural meeting places of communities as the focal points for the organization of community agricultural planning committees, a scientific basis for the adequate representation of farm people in the planning work has been laid. By using the natural meeting places of communities, fewer meetings have been found necessary in most counties and attendance at the meetings has improved. Thus, the efforts of county agents and others who sponsor meetings of farmers have been made more effective. Professional agricultural workers have generally assumed a major role in this delineation work. This has had the added advantage of getting the several agencies to recognize the same communities in the administration of their programs. A number of States have conducted experimental studies with the aim of simplifying the delineation procedure and have achieved notable results in this direction.

Agricultural Adjustments Facilitated

Working in close cooperation with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Security Administration, the Soil Conservation Service and other action agencies, local planning committees in all States have been helpful in effecting needed agricultural adjustments and in adapting National farm programs to local conditions.

County planning committees in general are rendering valuable assistance in obtaining and guiding the increased production of poultry, dairy and swine products to meet the defense and Land-Lease

needs of the Nation. In the southern States, the committees have been particularly active in promoting increased production of food and feed products for home consumption, as a means of developing a better-balanced agriculture and partially off-setting the severe decline of export markets for cotton and tobacco.

Many of the agricultural planning committees have assisted in bringing new sources of farm income to their localities. For instance, in a Florida community the planning committee decided that more dairy production was needed. Lack of a convenient cream station made this impractical until the local planning committee interested several neighboring communities and secured potential production data, which resulted in a large creamery locating a station in a nearby town.

Considerable attention has been given also to the matter of developing more efficient farm operating units, particularly in the New England States, the cut-over areas, and other places where a large number of farms are too small to yield adequate economic support for farm families. A local survey in Oneida County, Wisconsin for instance, revealed that only one-fourth of the farms were of sufficient size to be full-time self-sustaining units. In regions such as these, the planning committees are helping to develop supplementary industries such as farm forestry, game reserves, commercial recreation, handicraft work, road side markets and tourist trade.

Encouraging Proper Land Use

A major concern of many planning committees has been the proper use of land resources, and the development of various plans and programs that would encourage better land use.

In Nebraska, three county planning committees, (Sioux, Scotts Bluff, and Morrill), have combined their efforts to improve the use of land resources in areas common to the three counties. Realizing that heavy debt burden, wind erosion, uneconomic units, tax delinquency, and other agricultural problems can best be solved cooperatively, each county committee designated two of its members to serve on a joint tri-county committee. This tri-county committee worked in cooperation with a State subcommittee to develop agricultural plans for the area. One of the outcomes of this collaboration was the preparation and submission of a proposal to the Farm Security Administration requesting that the area be designated as a special problem area. The Farm Security Administration has approved this proposal and set aside funds for doing the work. In June, 1941, the tri-county committee and others met to incorporate the North Platte Valley Cooperative Tenure Improvement Association. Articles of Incorporation were signed and a board of seven directors elected, including four members of the tri-county committee. The Association has been empowered to lease, and purchase where necessary, with funds

borrowed from the Farm Security Administration, the sandy irrigated land. The land will then be leased to low-income farmers on a subsidized plan of soil rebuilding. The local planning committees have stressed that control of the land, adequate finance, erosion control, and supervision, should be included in any rehabilitation plan developed for the area. The committees have also been active in the formation of two soil conservation districts in these three counties.

In many areas the traditional policy for handling tax foreclosed lands has been to offer them for sale periodically to the highest bidder. The idea has been to get the land back on the tax rolls without regard to its location or its suitability for agriculture. The agricultural planning process has tended to focus the attention of local people on the relationship of this policy to scattered settlements, and the high public cost for roads, schools, and other services. In northern Minnesota, for instance, county planning committees have had a wholesome influence in having tax forfeited land put to its best use rather than to have it returned to private ownership regardless of its suitability as farm land. The customary recommendation of county committees has been that no tax forfeited land be offered for sale in any areas that have been classed as unfit or unsuited for agriculture. Almost without exception the committees have recommended that only those lands located on roads, and accessible to schools, should be offered for sale. In Carlton County the auditor went a step further and submitted a list of the tax forfeited lands in the areas classed as doubtful, and asked that the town board indicate whether or not these lands should be offered. In a few cases where land located in areas classed as unsuitable for agriculture have been offered, town boards have protested and had the lands withdrawn.

Soil and Water Conservation

Practically all of the county committees have been active in developing measures to conserve the soil and water resources of their areas. A number have assisted in obtaining passage of State Soil Conservation District Acts, in petitioning for soil conservation districts, and in publicizing the advantages of such legislation. The county committees in Ashe and Alleghany Counties, North Carolina, initiated planning work by making a survey for the purpose of collecting basic data on soils, cover types, rainfall and other information needed in organizing and operating county soil conservation districts.

Most of the counties in the western half of the country have been concerned with irrigation and water facilities proposals. A number have given special attention to water needs and facilities in classifying land. This classification has been useful in relocating water rights and in reclassifying land for taxing purposes. The activity of county committees in assisting technicians in

developing area plans for water facilities is discussed in detail in another section of this report.

In Culpepper County, Virginia, the planning committee decided the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program could, with proper cooperation, go much further in conserving soil resources in the county. Accordingly, they encouraged greater participation in the AAA program and as a result, more than 165 farmers are participating in the program this year who had never participated in any previous AAA program.

Cooperative Enterprises

The public discussion, coincident with county planning work, has resulted in numerous communities taking a special interest in the establishing of cooperative services of various types. A notable example is found in the rural electrification project that has been developed for the Cornville Community in Yavapai County, Arizona. This community recognized that considerable value would accrue to the farms in that area if an electric line could be extended into the community. There were only about forty-five potential clients, however, and thus it was not feasible to undertake a Rural Electrification Administration cooperative. The committee negotiated with a private power company and learned that the company would extend an electric line to the community if the prospective revenue over a two-year period would pay for construction costs. It was estimated that the revenues would amount to \$2,000 per year, and that the line would cost approximately \$10,000 to install. This would mean that a supplementary sum of approximately \$5,000 would have to be raised by the community. This seemed an impossible task. The committee continued to work on the problem, however, and found that the cost could be reduced through the employment of a local contractor and effecting a savings on equipment, and in the local people contributing free labor. These savings reduced the cash outlay to a point where the extra money needed could be raised by local subscription. An agreement was then completed with the power company to the effect that the local people would furnish the labor and a portion of the expense and the power company would refund 10% of all income for ten years, or until the money and labor equivalent contributed by the local users was repaid. A local cooperative organization was formed to formally handle the project and to contract for the extension of power into the community. Thus, the local committee, with little outside help, was enabled through group effort to achieve a long-felt need for the entire community. A short time later a neighboring community followed an almost identical procedure and procured electrification for its area.

Special attention has been given to the organization of farmers' cooperatives for marketing livestock, milk, fruit, and other agricultural products. In Boundary County, Idaho, for instance, a

weekly community auction sale was organized and started on the basis of investigations and plans by the county and community committees. Several committees are working out improvements in the products to be marketed, while others are giving attention to the development of better marketing facilities. The work of county planning committees in organizing cooperatives to supply army cantonments is discussed elsewhere in this report.

Taxation Problems

Local planning committees have been instrumental in obtaining more equitable assessments of agricultural land, and in bringing farm taxes more nearly in line with farm income and with urban taxes. In Washington County, Maryland, for instance, the county and community planning committees have assisted in working out a more equitable basis for assessing orchard property, which is now under consideration by county officials.

In Iowa, a State subcommittee on taxation and assessment, and upward of forty county committees, are working closely with the State Tax Commission in improving the farm real estate assessment situation. Farm assessment data have been discussed at numerous local meetings, and maps prepared to show comparisons between the proportion and productivity of crop land and the assessed values and between sale values and assessed values of identical properties. These meetings have created widespread spontaneous interest and have accomplished commendable results. One result was that the State Tax Commission called a State-wide meeting of assessment officials at which planning representatives were given an opportunity to present information on the current inequalities of assessment, and to discuss techniques for improving them. Following this meeting many of the county auditors either requested the respective county agricultural planning committees to assist in gathering and analyzing local assessment information or undertook to do it themselves. Numerous counties held training schools for assessors, in which members of planning committees were invited to participate. These activities have resulted in a material improvement in the local assessment situation.

County committees, particularly in cut-over areas and in the plains region, have been working with local government officials in an effort to overcome problems of excessive tax delinquency. In Custer County, Montana, the committee urged property taxed title action against land owned by syndicates, in accordance with the State law. Others have worked on measures designed to return to private ownership, and to the public tax roll, foreclosed lands that are suited for farming.

Rural Zoning

The agricultural planning process has awakened increased interest

in rural zoning as a means of obtaining better land use. Planning committees have been active in several instances in promoting State and local legislation in this connection. In South Dakota, for instance, the Corson County Planning Committee, with the assistance of State planning leaders, was largely responsible for the adoption of a rural zoning enabling act by the State Legislature in March, 1941. The county committee decided early in 1939 that a rural zoning enabling act was needed to help solve some of the county's troublesome financial and land management problems. With the aid of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and State Agricultural Experiment Station technicians, such an act was drafted and introduced in the State Legislature in 1939, but failed to pass. Additional county and district meetings were held during the ensuing months to discuss the problem, and the State Experiment Station was requested to make a further study of the possibilities of rural zoning in that section of the State. This study was made and results discussed at subsequent county and district meetings throughout the State. During the succeeding six months an intensive educational campaign was carried on, and in the spring of 1941, when the bill was again introduced, it passed both Houses of the State Legislature with only two dissenting votes in each House.

The Corson County Committee is now developing plans for starting a rural zoning program in the county, and the way is clear for any other county in the State to avail itself of the benefits of the same act. Passage of the rural zoning act serves as a good example (a) of getting local people to recognize the need for obtaining enabling legislation in attacking certain problems; (b) in using basic information to achieve needed improvements; and (c) in obtaining desired action on the part of the State Legislature.

Forestry

County agricultural planning committees are working with the Soil Conservation Service, the State Extension Services, State Foresters, and the United States Forest Service in the development of farm forestry and forest farming programs. They have been instrumental in securing cooperators for the Norris-Doxey Program, in assisting in the development of policies for the application of the program to their respective areas, and are stimulating the reforestation of lands not suited to farming. They are cooperating, also, with the Forest Service in the development of a more effective educational and action program on slash disposal and other fire control measures. A subcommittee in Carroll County, New Hampshire, has assisted in the organization of a forest products and marketing management cooperative. Other county committees have sponsored forest tree planting demonstrations and have encouraged farmers to set out seedlings to protect steep pasture slopes. A committee in Gallaway County, Missouri, has been particularly interested in the Cedar Creek Forest and Pasture Project of the Soil Conservation Service and has aided in the development of specific

proposals relating to the acquisition, development and management of the area in a way that would best contribute to the interests of a permanent agriculture. Committees have cooperated, also, with the Shelterbelt Tree Planting Program and emphasized better woodland management and the multiple use of forest lands. In some areas, they have suggested the exchange of National forest and State owned lands to effect more economical administration. They have given special attention, also, to methods of utilizing timber supplies in a manner that would provide local people with a maximum of employment and benefits from forested areas. In Connecticut, farmers have frequently been unable to secure nursery stock when needed due to the fact that private nurseries are unable to gauge the demand accurately three years in advance. The State Planning Committee has now worked out an agreement and received passage of a law whereby the State contracts with nurserymen in advance for an adequate supply of nursery stock and any surplus resulting from over-estimates by farmers is utilized by the State on its own lands or held over by the State for sale to farmers in the following year.

Highway Planning and Improvement

County agricultural planning committees are collaborating with the Public Roads Administration, State Highway Departments, and local governments in the development and improvement of the public highways in their communities. Many have assisted in a highway mapping program which provides a basis for long-time highway improvement, and suggests a framework within which projects of a post-defense nature may be fitted.

Highway officials are observing agricultural planning maps and reports in the location, relocation, and improvement of rural roads and bridges, and in determining the priority that should be given to the respective highways for all-weather surfacing and repairs.

A program of road improvement in Bryan County, Oklahoma, illustrates the kind of results that are achieved by close cooperation of farm people with local, State and Federal agencies. After considerable study of the need for improvement of rural roads and bridges in the county, a series of meetings was called by the chairman of the county agricultural planning committee in the spring of 1941. The meetings were attended by farmers, school superintendents, rural mail carriers, Work Projects Administration representatives, county officials and representatives of the State Highway Department. Additional information developed at these meetings indicated that nearly three-fourths of the bridges were unsafe, and that much of the road system in the county could be used only during periods of dry weather. With the advice of school superintendents and rural mail carriers a program was developed for the maintenance of essential school bus and rural mail routes in the county. Local school districts acquired surplus graders from the State Highway Department, and farmers with teams, tractors, and graders, organized local community groups to operate this equipment on the roads and to clean out drainage ditches. By the end

of June, six communities and school districts in the county were organized to carry on programs of road improvement. More than 200 farmers with teams or tractors had volunteered for work, and arrangements had been made to obtain needed gasoline from county and local funds. The county commissioners agreed upon a program for the maintenance of drainage ditches in the future, and the Work Projects Administration agreed upon a program of bridge building, using concrete and creosoted lumber construction. The farmers of this county have demonstrated the value of organized planning, and believe that it will bring them better roads during the coming winter than they have had for many years.

Rural School Consolidation

Several States have indicated an interest in rural school consolidation. A number have recommended the closing of poorly attended rural schools, and the transportation of pupils to other districts. A number of North Dakota committees are cooperating with the public school officials in studying ways and means of improving local school organization. In several Nevada counties the planning committees are giving special attention to school problems. Committees in Iowa have devoted considerable discussion to proposed legislation for a "County Unit System" of school organization and the recent move to recodify the school laws of that State is likely to furnish a fresh impetus and opportunity for planning with respect to school problems.

Rural Library Service

County planning committees in at least a half dozen States have given special attention to expanding the library services available to rural people. In Caswell County, North Carolina, the planning committee has cooperated with school and library officials in obtaining a special WPA library project for the county. In Kern County, California, the planning committee has had the assistance of representatives of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare in working out a plan for improving library facilities in rural areas of the county.

Rural Mail Routes

A number of committees have assisted in the preparation of maps showing new proposed mail routes. In Utah, a new mail route was approved and put into operation largely as a result of county planning activities.

A community planning committee in Idaho discovered, among other things, that the existing rural mail route did not adequately serve the farmers of the community due to changes in the location of farm houses. They drew up a proposed new route which was accepted

by the postal authorities.

Other Examples of Planning Activities

Planning committees have taken an active part also in promoting livestock and crop improvement activities, in establishing grazing districts, and in initiating weed, insect, rodent and predatory animal control programs.

Local planning committees have been helpful, too, in facilitating coordinated planning on individual farms. Working closely with various agricultural agencies they have helped to develop individual plans for a number of demonstration farms in their locality.

In the cut-over regions and submarginal areas, county planning committees are working closely with public land purchase projects and assisting with the development of plans for the management and use of such lands. A number of committees are working on problems associated with the relocation of farmers displaced by public land purchases. In Wing County, Missouri, the relocation of farmers from the Wappapello Flood Control Basin was a major activity of the local planning committee.

A number of counties have manifested special interest in developing the recreational resources of their areas as a means of supplementing regular farm income. Several have assisted in taking recreational inventories to determine local recreational needs and resources.

In January, 1318 county committees assisted in furnishing data for the Department regarding the estimated cost of family-type farms. A number of the committees have been invited to assist in the selection of tenant-purchase farms. Some have held landlord-tenant schools and studied the local tenant situation as a means of arriving at a clearer understanding of the problem.

Under the impetus of the cooperative planning process, increased attention has been given to farm family living problems. In El Paso County, Colorado, for example, the planning committee has worked with the county commissioners in establishing a county nursing unit. The program includes immunization, pre-natal care, baby clinics and study groups. Planning committees are seeking also to improve the domestic water supply. Several States are continuing the investigation of freezer-lockers as a means of developing adequate storage facilities for home produced food.

Rural youth subcommittees have been established in a number of States and are working on problems of vocational guidance, training and placement of rural youth. A number have initiated local studies to determine the situation, desires and needs of the young

people in their areas. In Ross County, Ohio, a special rural youth leader has been employed by the National Youth Administration and the Extension Service in an effort to follow up and implement a local youth survey that was completed in that county recently at the request of the county planning committee.

During the year, a number of States have devoted renewed attention to acquainting local committeemen and the rural populace with the purpose and philosophy of the cooperative planning program. In some places, notably Florida and South Dakota, this function has been accomplished by means of a series of community training schools. These were followed with as much additional help at planning meetings as the county agents, the assistants in planning, and other technicians could give.

These are but a few of the many activities and accomplishments which can be attributed to the cooperative planning program as it has operated during the past year. Naturally, other benefits will be manifested as the work advances, for the planning process serves as a leaven and time is required to culminate many of the ends which it is designed to achieve. Working side by side with their governmental representatives and with skilled scientists, American farmers can face the future confident that they have a cooperative planning organization which will enable them to cope effectively with the problems and exigencies which lie ahead.

VIII. ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DIVISION OF STATE AND LOCAL PLANNING

The Division of State and Local Planning is responsible, within the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, for negotiating annual agreements with the State Land-Grant Colleges for the conduct of the agricultural planning program in the States. These agreements set forth the conditions upon which the Department of Agriculture and Colleges jointly contribute funds and personnel for the operation of the program. As its contribution, in addition to financial support, the Division of State and Local Planning maintains State Representatives of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the States carrying on planning work, and in some of the more important States has also maintained Assistant State Representatives of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Seven Regional Representatives of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics give direction and advice on the operations of the program in the States. A small Washington staff formulates general outlines for the conduct of agricultural planning, summarizes and interprets planning materials and reports developed by State and county agricultural planning committees, conducts necessary liaison and coordinating work with other divisions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Interbureau Coordinating Committees, and facilitates the preparation of specific proposals for action growing out of the planning process for the consideration of Interbureau Committees and the Agricultural Program Board.

During the past year the Washington staff of the Division has been reorganized to provide more effective liaison between the Washington staff and the State and Regional Bureau of Agricultural Economics Representatives in the field. Seven members of the Washington staff have been designated as Regional Planning Assistants. Each Regional Planning Assistant acts as a liaison representative between the Division in Washington and one of the Regional Bureau of Agricultural Economics Representatives and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics Representatives in a group of States. A considerable proportion of the time of the Regional Planning Assistants is devoted to work in the field with the field personnel. This has made it possible for regional and State personnel to devote more of their time to the development of the program in the field, and has necessitated less frequent trips to Washington on the part of the field personnel.

Interdivisional and Interagency Liaison Activities of the Washington Staff

The effectiveness of agricultural planning depends to a considerable extent upon cooperation between the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the various agencies of the Department, and mutual

understanding of the functions and methods of the planning program and of the operations of the various agency programs. One of the functions of the Division of State and Local Planning, therefore, is to maintain agency relationships which will insure the effective participation of other Department agencies in the planning program. There are three major avenues of approach to this problem. The first is by working through the agency liaison representatives of the Division of Program Analysis and Development. The second avenue is through the Interbureau Coordinating Committee on Agricultural Planning and other Interbureau Coordinating Committees. The third is in working directly with the individual agencies.

Work Through Bureau Liaison Representatives

An important type of work that is done in cooperation with these representatives is the assembling of recommendations of planning committees which will be of interest to or are specifically directed to given agencies of the Department. For instance, all recommendations made by State and county planning committees during the year were summarized in this manner for use by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration at its National Conference in June, for the purpose of developing the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program. It is to the liaison representatives that personnel of the Division usually go for information about the operation of an agency's program. Also, quite frequently discussions about various subjects of interest to planning committees, or pertinent to the administration of the planning program, are discussed directly with the agency representatives by staff members of this Division or in cooperation with a member of this Division.

Work Through Interbureau Coordinating Committee

During the year unified program reports from many counties in the United States were submitted to Washington and were examined by the Interbureau Coordinating Committee on Agricultural Planning. Thereafter, a representative of this Division assumed the responsibility in each case for working with the representatives of the various agencies on this Committee in developing a set of comments and suggestions by the Interbureau Coordinating Committee relative to the program which had been developed in the county. This comprised one of the major direct contacts with the various agencies.

In addition to work on materials originating in the field, this Division assisted the Interbureau Coordinating Committee in initiating a number of statements dealing with planning for use by planning committees in the field. The best example of this is the statement "Suggestions for a Unified State Agricultural Program to Meet the Impacts of War." Most of the work done by the Interbureau Coordinating Committee of this nature was presented to the Agricultural Program Board and discussed before it by one or more members of this Division.

In addition to the Interbureau Coordinating Committee on Agricultural Planning, several other Interbureau Committees, on which the Division of State and Local Planning was represented, functioned during the year. Though working on different subjects, the purpose of all of these Committees might be considered the same, and usually resulted in a product for consideration by the Program Board and the Secretary. It was through this work with the Interbureau Coordinating Committees and with the Program Board that most was accomplished in acquainting the agencies of the Department with the planning program, and in working out procedures whereby they would participate more actively and most effectively in planning.

Direct Work With Individual Agencies

In addition to these ways of working with agencies, the Division works day by day and intermittently with Departmental and non-Departmental agencies. Much of this work is necessitated by difficulties which planning committees experience in obtaining satisfactory consideration of their recommendations by using the administrative channels of the agency or agencies involved. When these difficulties arise, this Division learns of them through its field staff or from the Extension Service. They call for consideration of the problem with agency officials in Washington who are in a position to make decisions on the problem. This work sometimes is done in cooperation with the BAE liaison representative with the particular agency, sometimes in cooperation with members of the Extension Service, and sometimes with representatives of the Office of Land Use Coordination. They furnish an important basis for improving planning procedures to fit the needs of the Department, and they serve the purpose of keeping the agencies alive to the needs of planning committees.

Sometimes field meetings are held, attended by planning committee members, administrators or their representatives, and planning technicians, to discuss particular problems similar to those mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Or they may be held for the purpose of developing better working relationships and an understanding of the agency's program. Sometimes meetings of this nature are held on a regional basis, but without planning committee members in attendance. Since many of the Departmental agencies administer their programs through regional offices, this is an important procedure in developing proper relationships, and the representatives of the Division in Washington and in the regions assume an important function in arranging meetings between planning technicians and the regional administrators and their staffs. An example of this was a meeting held in the Dayton, Ohio, office of the Soil Conservation Service, attended by all State BAE Representatives and the administrative staff of the Soil Conservation Service in the region for which Dayton is headquarters. Occasionally, members of this Division and of agencies of the Department hold two or three short conferences per week over a period

of a month or more for the purpose of developing a more complete understanding of each other's programs and generally improving working relations between the planning program and the program of the agencies concerned. The best example of this is the work done with the Soil Conservation Service.

All proposals for projects to be undertaken by the Work Projects Administration which involve work or research activities relating to agricultural planning have been submitted to the Division for review prior to approval or rejection by the Work Projects Administration. In preparing statements concerning these proposals, the Division has correlated the views of Divisions in the Bureau which are in a position to advise as to the merits of the proposals. These statements have been transmitted to the Work Projects Administration, and Bureau of Agricultural Economics Representatives in the States concerned have been advised as to the status of these proposals. The Division has suggested ways in which the projects might be correlated with the work of State and county agricultural planning committees.

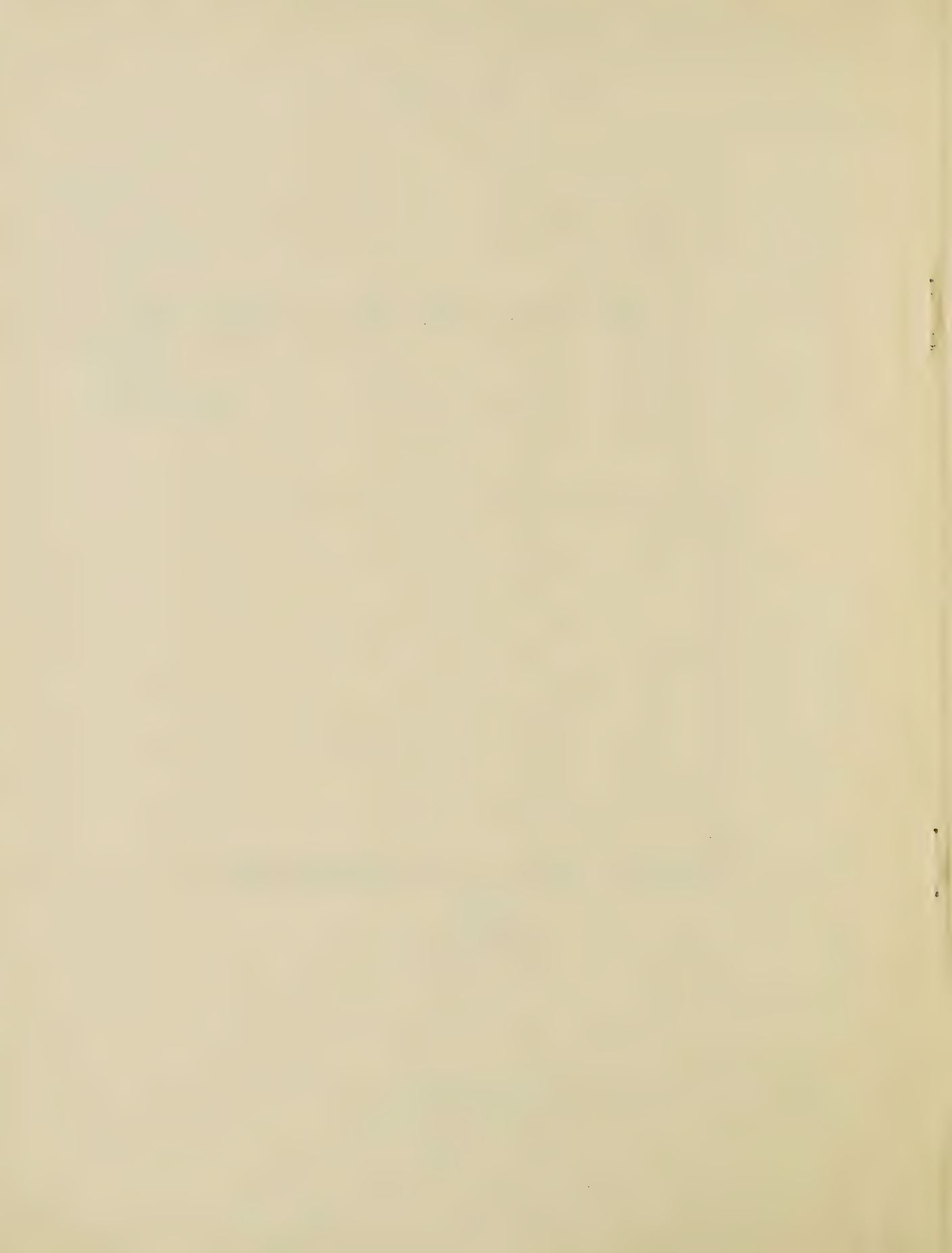
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AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN A WORLD AT WAR

A PROGRESS REPORT
COVERING THE COOP-
ERATIVE AGRICULTURAL
PLANNING PROGRAM
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 1941



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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A PROGRESS REPORT COVERING THE COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL
PLANNING PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR ENDING
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I. FOREWORD

The material presented in this report is a condensed summary of the Annual Agricultural Progress Reports prepared and submitted by the Land-Grant College-BAE Committee in each of the States engaged in agricultural planning activities.

Since these State reports were submitted, the defense effort has become an all-out war effort. All the resources, thoughts and energies of agricultural planning committees are now directed toward winning the war and winning the peace. Although the following report reflects the great stress laid by planning committees on lines of activity related to the defense effort prior to our entry into the war, it will remain for next year's annual report to chronicle the total participation of the agricultural planning program in the war effort.

Many significant accomplishments that were indicated in the various State reports have had to be omitted from this report because of space limitations. The following pages, however, present some of the most representative examples of the nature and scope of the planning work undertaken in all sections of the country. The contributions of these committees to the defense effort are emphasized, and from them the reader can obtain a picture of the opportunity planning has afforded farm people to function effectively in a world at war.

II. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The immediate and pressing problems of the war emergency and their manifold implications for agriculture have brought about a reorientation and broadening of the cooperative agricultural planning program during the past year. This has been manifested in the significant new role assumed by State Agricultural Planning Committees in the development of broad agricultural policies and programs of regional, national, and international implications, and in the major attention which State and local committees have given to problems raised by the location of defense and military establishments in rural areas and by the absorption of a significant proportion of the underemployed rural population in the defense effort.

All of the basic knowledge and experience growing out of the previous operation of the program has been brought into focus in the rapid development of plans for wise expansion of farm production, for the conservation of human and physical resources in agriculture, and for adjustments to maximize the contributions of agriculture to the war effort. Moreover, great emphasis has been placed on developing plans which will aid in the promulgation of a sound post-war program for agriculture.

Significant progress during the past year is indicated by the increasing participation of farm men and women in the planning program, in the further extension of the planning organization in the States and counties, and in the growing reliance of research workers and agricultural action programs upon the sound guidance afforded by the democratic planning process. Appropriately, instead of the term "land-use planning", the term "agricultural planning" has come to be used quite generally as more adequately descriptive of the scope and character of the program.

This report outlines the more significant aspects of the planning program which have related directly to the defense effort, the growth of and increased participation in the program, continuing activities looking toward better land utilization and the adaptation and unification of agricultural programs to make them more effective in relation to specific local situations.

Credit for the work accomplished during the past year is due in major part to the wholehearted interest and cooperation in the program on the part of farm people, agencies of the Department of Agriculture, the State Extension Service and State Experiment Stations, and local educational, research, and action agencies. State, county, and community agricultural planning committees, sponsored and encouraged jointly by the Land-Grant Colleges in the States and by the Department of Agriculture, are looking forward now to the year ahead with confidence that agriculture will contribute its full share to the national war effort.

III. DEFENSE ACTIVITIES OF STATE, COUNTY, AND COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES

Because of the urgency of the defense effort and its importance for agriculture in terms of the adjustments required in production, and the impacts of the war economy upon all phases of rural life, agricultural planning committees in the States, counties, and communities during the past year have devoted major attention to problems raised by the Defense Program. Increasing reliance has been placed upon the democratic planning process to insure the full participation and cooperation of farmers, agricultural experts, and administrators of farm programs in the States and counties. This is particularly important now in the development of plans and policies which will maximize the contribution of agriculture to the defense of democracy, and will promote the necessary adjustments required by this effort.

Information developed by county and community agricultural planning committees during the first two years of the planning program has served as an essential basis for the development of plans to meet many of these problems. Emphasis which was given during the earlier phases of the program to mapping out different land-use areas, to study of the major problems existing in these areas, and to the working out of programs to promote better land use in the light of the varying conditions found, has proved invaluable to the rapid development of programs designed to meet the defense emergency.

Unified Agricultural Program to Aid in National Defense and Meet the Impacts of War

The most outstanding single contribution of the State Agricultural Planning Committees during the past year has been in the development of a comprehensive program of desirable agricultural adjustments to aid the defense effort and to meet the impacts of war. In January 1941, each of the State Committees was asked by the Secretary to indicate (a) how agriculture could best contribute to national defense and national unity; (b) how the benefits resulting from the Defense Program could be utilized to bring about adjustments needed in farming, forestry, and rural living, to place agriculture in a stronger economic and social position; and (c) how unwise types of land utilization could be prevented. The speed and efficiency with which the planning committees met the Secretary's request have demonstrated the effectiveness and value of democratic planning in agriculture. Working without pay, the farmer members of the State Committees, in cooperation with agency representatives and technical experts of the Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Colleges, developed comprehensive programs which were submitted in reports to the Department within a period of less than five months.

During June, seven conferences were held in different sections of the country for the purpose of summarizing and coordinating the programs submitted by the State Committees. Following these conferences a national summary entitled "Agriculture's Plans to Aid in Defense and Meet the Impacts of War" was prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Extension Service and submitted to the Agricultural Program Board of the Department. The report gave particular emphasis (a) to current defense recommendations; (b) to planning for the post-defense period; and (c) to recommendations for continuing and rounding out a desirable agricultural program. The ingenuity and effort that went into the State reports have produced a reservoir of suggestions which has served as the basis for subsequent discussions with representatives of State Agricultural Planning Committees at a series of regional conferences, and for the formulation of policy statements and specific programs of action by the Department of Agriculture.

The following issues received major consideration by practically all of the States:

Planning for Defense

Typical of the suggestions dealing with special defense situations were (a) the integration of the agricultural economy with the total defense effort by such means as the decentralization of defense industries, careful planning of military food requirements, increased Federal aid for public services in areas of expanding defense population, more adequate fire protection and long-range planning of defense housing; (b) the development of priorities and price control policies, particularly in regard to such items as farm machinery, nitrogenous fertilizer, and insecticides; and (c) greater coordination of marketing and distribution of farm products.

Health

The States showed striking unanimity in their concern for the national health as part of the first line of defense, and recommended that a unified national education program on health and nutrition be developed. Specifically, they suggested such measures as the expansion of the hot lunch program for school children, increased emphasis on consumer education, the expansion and extension of AAA benefit payments for home food practices and the improvement of health and medical services for rural areas.

Education

Practically all of the State Committees proposed substantial enlargement of the existing vocational guidance and training programs for rural youth and recommended that Federal appropriations for these purposes be increased. Larger Federal grants-in-aid for all public educational purposes were also advocated in order that rural children might have equal educational opportunity with

urban children. Many committees stressed the need of a comprehensive educational program for carrying to farm people the factual data regarding the need for and significance of the national defense effort. Others stressed the need for helping farmers to keep up-to-date regarding the changing economic situation.

Conservation and Utilization Programs

In the field of forest conservation, the report expressed concern over the increased fire hazards and wasteful harvesting practices accompanying the widespread cutting of lumber for defense activities.

Problems relating to effective use of soil, water, and range resources were also considered. Many committees recommended that a very much larger proportion of the AAA benefit payments be used to encourage adoption of conservation practices and that all farm agencies should increase their efforts to induce individual farmers to adopt the soil-building practices most needed on their respective farms.

Suggested means to improve water utilization programs were the development of supplemental water and irrigation projects and the use of more efficient irrigation practices. It was recognized that the pressure of good livestock prices and current feed supplies might lead to overstocking and overgrazing of range lands. To offset this danger, it was recommended that excessive expansion of range stock be discouraged and that emphasis be placed on a policy of managing ranges on a sustained yield basis.

Farm Management and Production

Most of the States felt the production of home-grown foods and feeds should be extended, especially in non-commercial areas. To minimize the problem of post-war adjustment they advised that any needed expansion in agricultural production be obtained as far as possible by increasing the production of each animal raised or of each acre of land cultivated rather than by establishing new herds or by developing new cropland. Where increases of acreages are necessary, it is recommended that the increases be encouraged on land classified as suitable for agriculture. Several of the feed deficit States recommended action to conserve or make feed supplies more accessible to livestock farmers.

A large number of the recommendations dealing with farm management, tenancy, land use, and administration of the Department's action programs specified that family-sized farms be encouraged in every way possible. Many were of the opinion that some form of price guarantee or support was desirable for both basic and non-basic crops, and that such guarantees or supports should be adjusted upward as prices paid by farmers advance.

Marketing, Transportation, and Finance

Another set of recommendations concerned the improvement of the marketing and distribution system of farm products essential to the Defense Program. Expansion of old transportation facilities and development of new ones were urged to forestall the possibilities of shipping bottlenecks. The State trade barriers were recognized in many instances as obstacles which must be removed.

That mutual trade and cultural development within the Western Hemisphere should be fostered at an accelerated rate was widely advocated. Some committees recommended unrestricted trade as a means to this end, pointing out, however, that agriculture should not have to bear the brunt of unfavorable economic forces that might be associated with such a policy. Others suggested that trade increases be limited to non-competitive products.

In the field of agricultural finance it was felt that credit agencies should promote those adjustments in agriculture that are dictated by the defense effort, and that credit facilities should be extended in a manner that would avert the agricultural calamities that were associated with certain credit uses during the first World War. Some felt that credit agencies should use their facilities to help to convert small, uneconomic units into family-sized farms.

Several State reports suggested that it would be desirable for a single agency to offer farmers all of the various kinds of credit now supplied by the several government agencies, with an office in each county easily accessible to the farmer, or if this is not practicable, that present agencies be housed in the same building.

Planning for the Post-War Period

Looking to the future and to the probable difficulties which agriculture will face following the end of the war and the return to a peace economy, the State Committees set forth three lines of activity which they believed will make easier the letting-down processes that come with the abandonment of a war economy. These recommendations included: (a) development of a public works program especially designed to meet the employment, conservation, highway, forestry, housing, hospitalization, educational and recreational needs of rural communities; (b) curbing of economic expansion and speculation, by increasing the efficiency of current numbers of livestock, acres, and machinery, by shifting from surplus or export crops to feed and food crops and by discouraging excessive expansion of the physical farm plant; and (c) by shaping the future of American agriculture through such measures as rural zoning, public acquisition of submarginal and forest lands, increased vocational guidance and training opportunities for rural youth, and

encouragement of continued migration from rural areas to urban employment in areas where the current farm population is adequate or more than adequate for farm production.

General

In general, the State Committees recognized the need for continuing the Federal agricultural programs and offered a wide range of suggestions for expanding and revising national, State, and local action relating to agriculture and rural welfare. Many of these suggestions reflect the need for a rural housing program, an enlarged land acquisition program, better guidance of settlement of new land, increased vocational training and guidance, a more determined attack on malnutrition, and an expanded conservation program. A number of these activities are already under way, while others call for the development of new plans.

Next Steps for the Department

The recommendations summarized above involve action at various levels, including that by individual farmers and by local, State, and Federal agencies. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Extension Service recommended that, as its contribution to giving effect to these proposals, the Department should

- (a) Prepare supplementary digests of recommendations made in the reports of the State Committees which relate to the activities of the respective agencies of the Department, and that upon the basis of discussion with responsible agency officials, statements be formulated for transmission to State Agricultural Planning Committees indicating the reaction of the agencies to recommendations having regional and national implications,
- (b) Through Interbureau Coordinating Committees, give special and immediate consideration to all of the major groups of recommendations included in the State Committee reports, and
- (c) Arrange for meetings between the Secretary and responsible Department officials and representatives of State Agricultural Planning Committees in a series of sectional conferences for the purpose of giving the Committees the reactions of the Department to the proposals included in the report, and of discussing the extent to which they can be incorporated in the farm programs of the future.

The Agricultural Program Board adopted these proposals, and steps subsequently have been taken to implement these recommendations.

Other Activities Relating to the Defense
Program

Planning for Farm Labor

One of the most immediately pressing problems growing out of the defense program has arisen in connection with the distribution of the supply of farm labor. Underemployment in the last ten years has created a reserve of surplus agricultural workers variously estimated at from two and one-half to five million workers. While the 1941 defense effort did not reduce the numbers of workers available for employment on farms sufficiently to solve the problem of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas, local and temporary shortages of farm labor have been noted in some parts of the country during the past year. These shortages resulted from a maldistribution of available farm laborers, and were met, fortunately, by shifting needed workers from areas of underemployment to points where they were needed. There has been no impairment of farm production throughout the country attributable to lack of farm labor. However, the defense emergency has presented an opportunity for bettering the economic status of farm laborers by increasing the amount of employment received per worker as the number available for farm work has been reduced. To take advantage of this opportunity, and to insure adequate supplies of farm labor at times and places when needed, farm labor subcommittees of State Agricultural Planning Committees have been organized in practically all of the States. County agricultural planning committees in all sections of the country have organized farm labor subcommittees to deal with farm labor problems in their localities.

The activities of State and county farm labor subcommittees have been varied as local conditions warranted. Major emphasis, however, has been given to obtaining fuller cooperation upon the part of farmers and farm laborers with the public employment services in the States. In nearly all sections of the country, it is reported that these efforts have resulted in a significant increase in the number of workers referred to farm jobs by the State employment services.

Farm labor subcommittees in the counties have supplied information to local selective service boards concerning farm labor requirements, and the availability of farm labor. This has provided selective service boards with sound background information against which they could better judge individual requests for deferment by farmers and farm laborers. Much attention has been given to the problems of providing more adequate housing for resident farm labor, and to the establishment of camps for seasonal and migratory farm laborers. Plans have been made during the past year for intensified efforts to arrange for a better distribution of farm labor resources so as to have adequate labor available, if possible, when needed during the harvest season of 1942.

Work of County and Community Committees in Areas of Defense Activity

In areas where defense industries and training centers have been located, county and community agricultural planning committees have moved rapidly in gathering information and developing plans to guide defense and army officials in the acquisition of suitable sites, in making inventories of available labor, in guiding the relocation of displaced farm families, in planning the location of needed housing facilities, in assuring the maximum contribution of local producers to the food needs of army cantonments, and in many other ways have swung behind the defense effort.

Several thousand farm families throughout the United States have been displaced as their farms have been acquired for army training centers, proving grounds, and defense industries. Agricultural planning committees in many parts of the country have moved actively to develop plans and programs for the relocation of these families.

In cooperation with agricultural planning committees in adjacent counties, surveys have been made to determine the availability of farms for rent or for sale to which displaced farm families could be directed. Surveys in purchase areas have provided information as to the needs of displaced farm families for guidance in obtaining new locations, their credit needs, and their needs for temporary storage of farm implements and household goods, and care of livestock.

Arrangements have been worked out on the basis of this kind of information, through the coordinated efforts of the Farm Security Administration, the agencies of the Farm Credit Administration, and other credit agencies, to meet the credit needs of these families. Similarly, families needing temporary storage for goods and equipment, or pasturage for livestock, have been helped, pending relocation, through the efforts of county agricultural planning committees. Preferential treatment for displaced families who might desire employment in the construction of defense plants and cantonment buildings, or in defense industries, has been worked out with defense officials.

Housing surveys have been made by agricultural planning committees in several areas throughout the nation. The objective of these surveys has been to determine the need for housing in rural areas and to develop plans for the location of housing for defense workers so that at the conclusion of the emergency, defense housing could be of permanent use to residents who would remain in these areas.

In certain instances, the results of the housing surveys for various reasons have netted little direct action. There are, however, examples of outstanding accomplishment. Chief among these is the housing program at the Radford, Virginia, bag-loading plant. In

this case, seventy-one houses had been constructed by June 1941, upon the basis of a survey of this nature conducted by the county agricultural planning committees in that area. These houses were constructed on land leased from farmers, with the understanding that the leases would terminate, and the houses would be purchased by the farmers when no longer required to house workers in the local defense plant.

A noteworthy feature of planning committees' activity in the Coosa Valley area of Alabama, and in some other defense areas, has been a comprehensive survey of labor resources available in the area for employment in the defense industries being established there. House-to-house surveys of approximately 30,000 families resident in the Coosa Valley area were made, and the occupational skills of those available for employment were classified in order that needed workers might be obtained with a minimum of effort when needed.

In Brown County, Texas, the agricultural planning committee developed plans for the organization of a farmers' cooperative to supply fresh, locally-grown farm products to nearby Camp Bowie. Plans for this cooperative were developed in January 1941, and by June the cooperative was organized, and a building for the conduct of the business of the cooperative had been constructed and was in use. The planning committees in Harnett County, North Carolina, and in several Massachusetts counties have been active in the development of similar programs.

In Barnstable County, Massachusetts, a National Guard Camp has been enlarged considerably after being taken over by the Army. It was feared at first that an area of good agricultural land might be included in the enlarged camp site. Accordingly, the agricultural planning committee in the county furnished information on types of land in the county to Army officials, and enabled the Army to acquire land which would not result in the withdrawal of any of the best lands in the county from agricultural production.

The examples cited above serve to illustrate the many hundreds of varying recommendations, plans for action, and cooperative achievements made by State, county, and community agricultural planning committees the country over in the interests of national defense.

TIV. COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IS THE FOUNDATION OF SOUND AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENTS

Ever since the cooperative agricultural planning program was initiated, the major objectives of the work have been: (a) to facilitate the fusion of farmer experience and knowledge with the knowledge and skills of agricultural technicians and administrators; (b) to find a more effective and economical way of adapting public agricultural programs to local conditions; (c) to achieve better coordination of the several agricultural action programs as they are administered in the field; (d) to clarify and improve the working relationships between Federal, State, and local agencies; and (e) to facilitate the attacking of agricultural problems on all fronts at the same time.

The very significant progress which has been made toward achieving these objectives is evidenced by the examples of activities and accomplishments which are given in the following pages. Included are such important activities as the facilitating of desirable agricultural adjustments, the encouragement of proper land use, the conservation of soil and water resources, the fostering of cooperative enterprises, the alleviation of taxation problems, the promotion of rural zoning, the encouragement of forestry, the improvement of highways, the consolidation of schools, the inauguration of rural library service, and the extension of rural mail routes.

Area Mapping, Analysis, and Classification

In most States, the area mapping, analysis and classification work by planning committees is considered by many to be basic to the development of a comprehensive, long-time agricultural program. Some committees have found it most expedient to begin their planning activities by mapping, analysis and classification of the land. Others find that this is not necessarily the most desirable point of departure. However, experience has shown that sooner or later planning committees will find it necessary to carry out this activity. The sooner this can be done, the less need there will be for reconsidering, in the light of facts and relationships brought out by area analysis and classification, many of the things that have already been done. The status of area mapping, analysis and classification is shown by Figure 1.

Agricultural Adjustments Facilitated

Working in close cooperation with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Security Administration, the Soil Conservation Service and other action agencies, local planning committees in all States have been helpful in effecting needed agricultural adjustments and in adapting National farm programs to local conditions.

County planning committees in general are rendering valuable assistance in obtaining and guiding the increased production of poultry, dairy and swine products to meet the defense and Lend-Lease needs of the Nation. In the Southern States, the committees have been particularly active in promoting increased production of food and feed products for home consumption, as a means of developing a better-balanced agriculture and partially offsetting the severe decline of export markets for cotton and tobacco.

Many of the agricultural planning committees have assisted in bringing new sources of farm income to their localities. For instance, in a Florida community the planning committee decided that more dairy production was needed. Lack of a convenient cream station made this impractical until the local planning committee interested several neighboring communities and secured potential production data, which resulted in a large creamery locating a station in a nearby town.

Considerable attention has been given also to the matter of developing more efficient farm operating units, particularly in the New England States, the cut-over areas, and other places where a large number of farms are too small to yield adequate economic support for farm families. A local survey in Oneida County, Wisconsin, for instance, revealed that only one-fourth of the farms were of sufficient size to be full-time self-sustaining units. In regions such as these, the planning committees are helping to develop supplementary industries such as farm forestry, game reserves, commercial recreation, handicraft work, roadside markets and tourist trade.

Encouraging Proper Land Use

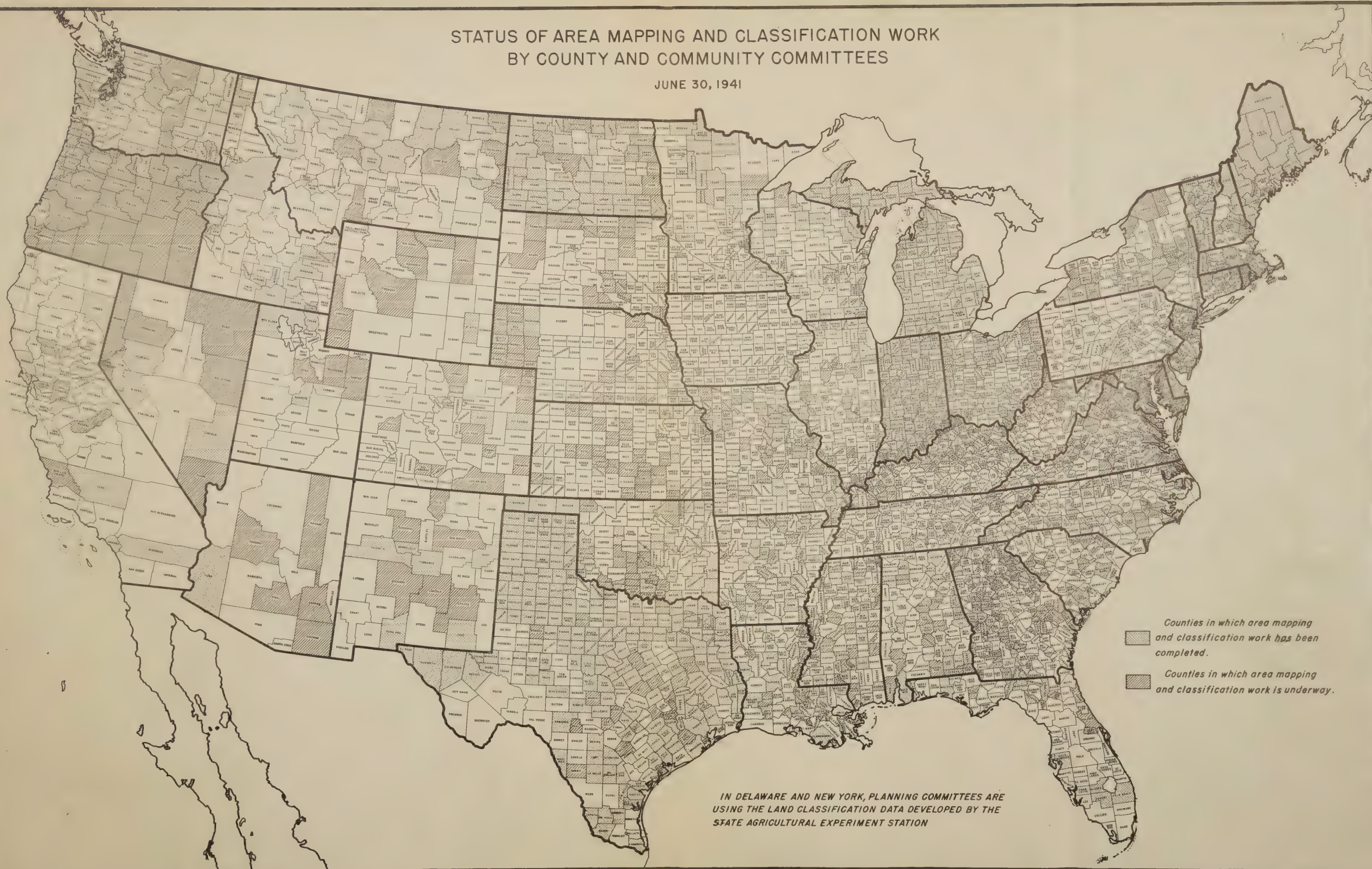
A major concern of many planning committees has been the proper use of land resources, and the development of various plans and programs that would encourage better land use.

In Nebraska, three county planning committees, Sioux, Scotts Bluff, and Morrill, have combined their efforts to improve the use of land resources in areas common to the three counties. Realizing that heavy debt burden, wind erosion, uneconomic units, tax delinquency, and other agricultural problems can best be solved cooperatively, each county committee designated two of its members to serve on a joint tri-county committee. This tri-county committee worked in cooperation with a State subcommittee to develop agricultural plans for the area.

One of the outcomes of this collaboration was the preparation and submission of a proposal to the Farm Security Administration requesting that the area be designated as a special problem area. The Farm Security Administration has approved this proposal and set aside funds for doing the work.

STATUS OF AREA MAPPING AND CLASSIFICATION WORK BY COUNTY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

JUNE 30, 1941



- Counties in which area mapping and classification work has been completed.
- Counties in which area mapping and classification work is underway.

IN DELAWARE AND NEW YORK, PLANNING COMMITTEES ARE USING THE LAND CLASSIFICATION DATA DEVELOPED BY THE STATE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

In June, 1941, the tri-county committee and others met to incorporate the North Platte Valley Cooperative Tenure Improvement Association. Articles of Incorporation were signed and a board of seven directors elected, including four members of the tri-county committee. The Association has been empowered to lease, and purchase where necessary, with funds borrowed from the Farm Security Administration, the sandy irrigated land. The land will then be leased to low-income farmers on a subsidized plan of soil rebuilding. The local planning committees have stressed that control of the land, adequate finance, erosion control, and supervision, should be included in any rehabilitation plan developed for the area. The committees have also been active in the formulation of two soil conservation districts in these three counties.

In many areas the traditional policy for handling tax foreclosed lands has been to offer them for sale periodically to the highest bidder. The idea has been to get the land back on the tax rolls without regard to its location or its suitability for agriculture. The agricultural planning process has tended to focus the attention of the local people on the relationship of this policy to scattered settlements, and the high public cost for roads, schools, and other services.

In northern Minnesota, for instance, county planning committees have had a wholesome influence in having tax-forfeited land put to its best use rather than to have it returned to private ownership regardless of its suitability as farm land. The customary recommendation of county committees has been that no tax-forfeited land be offered for sale in any areas that have been classed as unfit or unsuited for agriculture. Almost without exception the committees have recommended that only those lands located on roads, and accessible to schools, should be offered for sale.

In Carlton County, Minnesota, the auditor went a step further and submitted a list of the tax-forfeited lands in the areas classed as doubtful, and asked that the town board indicate whether or not these lands should be offered. In a few cases where land located in areas classed as unsuitable for agriculture have been offered, town boards have protested and had the lands withdrawn.

Soil and Water Conservation

Practically all of the county committees have been active in developing measures to conserve the soil and water resources of their areas. A number have assisted in obtaining passage of State Soil Conservation District Acts, in petitioning for soil conservation districts, and in publicizing the advantages of such legislation. The county committees in Ashe and Alleghany Counties, North Carolina, initiated planning work by making a survey for the purpose of collecting basic data on soils, cover types, rainfall and other information needed in organizing and operating county soil conservation districts.

Most of the counties in the western half of the country have been concerned with irrigation and water facilities proposals. A number have given special attention to water needs and facilities in classifying land. This classification has been useful in relocating water rights and in reclassifying land for taxing purposes. The activity of county committees in assisting technicians in developing area plans for water facilities is discussed in detail in another section of this report.

In Culpeper County, Virginia, the planning committee decided the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program could, with proper cooperation, go much further in conserving soil resources in the county. Accordingly, they encouraged greater participation in the AAA program and as a result more than 165 farmers are participating in the program this year who had never participated in any previous AAA program.

Cooperative Enterprises

The public discussion, coincident with county planning work, has resulted in numerous communities taking a special interest in the establishing of cooperative services of various types. A notable example is found in the rural electrification project that has been developed for the Cornville Community in Yavapai County, Arizona. This community recognized that considerable value would accrue to the farms in that area if an electric line could be extended into the community. There were only about forty-five potential clients, however, and thus it was not feasible to undertake a Rural Electrification Administration cooperative.

The committee negotiated with a private power company and learned that the company would extend an electric line to the community if the prospective revenue over a two-year period would pay for construction costs. It was estimated that the revenues would amount to \$2,000 per year, and that the line would cost approximately \$10,000 to install. This would mean that a supplementary sum of approximately \$5,000 would have to be raised by the community. This seemed an impossible task.

The committee continued to work on the problem, however, and found that the cost could be reduced through the employment of a local contractor and effecting a savings on equipment, and in the local people contributing free labor. These savings reduced the cash outlay to a point where the extra money needed could be raised by local subscription.

An agreement was then completed with the power company to the effect that the local people would furnish the labor and a portion of the expense and the power company would refund 10% of all income for ten years, or until the money and labor equivalent contributed by the local users was repaid. A local cooperative organization was formed to formally handle the project and to contract for the extension of power into the community. Thus, the

local committee, with little outside help, was enabled through group effort to achieve a long-felt need for the entire community. A short time later a neighboring community followed an almost identical procedure and procured electrification for its area.

Special attention has been given to the organization of farmers' cooperatives for marketing livestock, milk, fruit, and other agricultural products. In Boundary County, Idaho, for instance, a weekly community auction sale was organized and started on the basis of investigations and plans by the county and community committees. Several committees are working out improvements in the products to be marketed, while others are giving attention to the development of better marketing facilities. The work of county planning committees in organizing cooperatives to supply army cantonments is discussed elsewhere in this report.

Taxation Problems

Local planning committees have been instrumental in obtaining more equitable assessments of agricultural land, and in bringing farm taxes more nearly in line with farm income and with urban taxes. In Washington County, Maryland, for instance, the county and community planning committees have assisted in working out a more equitable basis for assessing orchard property, which is now under consideration by county officials.

In Iowa, a State subcommittee on taxation and assessment, and upward of forty county committees, are working closely with the State Tax Commission in improving the farm real estate assessment situation. Farm assessment data have been discussed at numerous local meetings, and maps prepared to show comparisons between the proportion and productivity of crop land and the assessed values, and between sale values and assessed values of identical properties. These meetings have created widespread spontaneous interest and have accomplished commendable results.

One result was that the State Tax Commission called a State-wide meeting of assessment officials at which planning representatives were given an opportunity to present information on the current inequalities of assessment, and to discuss techniques for improving them. Following this meeting, many of the county auditors either requested the respective county agricultural planning committees to assist in gathering and analyzing local assessment information or undertook to do it themselves. Numerous counties held training schools for assessors, in which members of planning committees were invited to participate. These activities have resulted in a material improvement in the local assessment situation.

County committees, particularly in cut-over areas and in the plains region, have been working with local government officials in an effort to overcome problems of excessive tax delinquency. In Custer County, Montana, the committee urged prompt tax title action against tax delinquent land owned by syndicates, in accordance with the State law. Others have worked on measures designed to return to private ownership, and to the public tax roll, foreclosed lands that are suited for farming.

Rural Zoning

The agricultural planning process has awakened increased interest in rural zoning as a means of obtaining better land use. Planning committees have been active in several instances in promoting State and local legislation in this connection. In South Dakota, for instance, the Corson County Planning Committee, with the assistance of State planning leaders, was largely responsible for the adoption of a rural zoning enabling act by the State Legislature in March, 1941. The county committee decided early in 1939 that a rural zoning enabling act was needed to help solve some of the county's troublesome financial and land management problems. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics and State Agricultural Experiment Station technicians gave technical advice in the drafting of such an act. Although the enabling act was introduced in the State Legislature in 1939, it failed to pass that year.

Additional county and district meetings were held during the ensuing months to discuss the problem, and the State Experiment Station was requested to make a further study of the possibilities of rural zoning in that section of the State. This study was made and results discussed at subsequent county and district meetings throughout the State. During the succeeding six months an intensive educational campaign was carried on, and in the spring of 1941, when the bill was again introduced, it passed both Houses of the State Legislature with only two dissenting votes in each House.

The Corson County Committee is now developing plans for starting a rural zoning program in the county, and the way is clear for any other county in the State to avail itself of the benefits of the same act. Passage of the rural zoning act serves as a good example (a) of getting local people to recognize the need for obtaining enabling legislation in attacking certain problems; (b) in using basic information to achieve needed improvements; and (c) in influencing desired action on the part of the State Legislature.

Forestry

County agricultural planning committees are working with the Soil Conservation Service, the State Extension Services, State Foresters, and the United States Forest Service in the development of farm

forestry and forest farming programs. They have been instrumental in securing cooperators for the Norris-Doxey Program, in assisting in the development of policies for the application of the program to their respective areas, and are stimulating the reforestation of lands not suited to farming. They are cooperating, also, with the Forest Service in the development of a more effective educational and action program on slash disposal and other fire control measures.

A subcommittee in Carroll County, New Hampshire, has assisted in the organization of a forest products and marketing management cooperative. Other county committees have sponsored forest tree planting demonstrations and have encouraged farmers to set out seedlings to protect steep pasture slopes. A committee in Gallaway County, Missouri, has been particularly interested in the Cedar Creek Forest and Pasture Project of the Soil Conservation Service and has aided in the development of specific proposals relating to the acquisition, development and management of the area in a way that would best contribute to the interests of a permanent agriculture.

Committees have cooperated, also, with the Shelterbelt Tree Planting Program and emphasized better woodland management and the multiple use of forest lands. In some areas, they have suggested the exchange of National forest and State-owned lands to effect more economical administration. They have given special attention, also, to methods of utilizing timber supplies in a manner that would provide local people with a maximum of employment and benefits from forested areas.

In Connecticut, farmers have frequently been unable to secure nursery stock when needed due to the fact that private nurseries are unable to gauge the demand accurately three years in advance. The State Planning Committee has assisted with the development of a legislative proposal whereby the State contracts with nurserymen in advance for an adequate supply of nursery stock and any surplus resulting from over-estimates by farmers is utilized by the State on its own lands or held over by the State for sale to farmers in the following year. This legislative proposal was passed by the 1941 legislature.

Highway Planning and Improvement

County agricultural planning committees are collaborating with the Public Roads Administration, State Highway Departments, and local governments in the development and improvement of the public highways in their communities. Many have assisted in a highway mapping program which provides a basis for long-time highway improvement, and suggests a framework within which projects of a post-defense nature may be fitted.

Highway officials are observing agricultural planning maps and reports in the location, relocation, and improvement of rural roads and bridges, and in determining the priority that should be given to the respective highways for all-weather surfacing and repairs.

A particularly effective job of cooperative highway planning has been done in Delta County, Colorado. Quoting from a report prepared by the Public Roads Administration, "Land-Use Planning in Relation to Highways, with Special Reference to Delta County, Colorado", "The Delta County Planning Committee, realizing the vital need for wise and efficient administration of their road funds, is now educating its people into planning for the future, and its excellent work in highway planning shows intelligent application of simple planning principles applied by unselfish interests."

A program of road improvement in Bryan County, Oklahoma, is another illustration of the kind of results that are achieved by close cooperation of farm people with local, State and Federal agencies. After considerable study of the need for improvement of rural roads and bridges in the county, a series of meetings was called by the chairman of the county agricultural planning committee in the spring of 1941. The meetings were attended by farmers, school superintendents, rural mail carriers, Work Projects Administration representatives, county officials and representatives of the State Highway Department.

Additional information developed at these meetings indicated that nearly three-fourths of the bridges were unsafe, and that much of the road system in the county could be used only during periods of dry weather. With the advice of school superintendents and rural mail carriers a program was developed for the maintenance of essential school bus and rural mail routes in the county. Local school districts acquired surplus graders from the State Highway Department, and farmers with teams, tractors, and graders, organized local community groups to operate this equipment on the roads and to clean out drainage ditches.

By the end of June, six communities and school districts in the county were organized to carry on programs of road improvement. More than 200 farmers with teams or tractors had volunteered for work, and arrangements had been made to obtain needed gasoline from county and local funds. The county commissioners agreed upon a program for the maintenance of drainage ditches in the future, and the Work Projects Administration agreed upon a program of bridge building, using concrete and creosoted lumber construction. The farmers of this county have demonstrated the value of organized planning, and believe that it will bring them better roads during the coming winter than they have had for many years.

Rural School Consolidation

Several States have indicated an interest in rural school consolidation. A number have recommended the closing of poorly attended rural schools, and the transportation of pupils to other districts. A number of North Dakota committees are cooperating with the public school officials in studying ways and means of improving local school organization. In several Nevada counties the planning committees are giving special attention to school problems. Committees in Iowa have devoted considerable discussion to proposed legislation for a "County Unit System" of school organization and the recent move to recodify the school laws of that State is likely to furnish a fresh impetus and opportunity for planning with respect to school problems.

Rural Library Service

County planning committees in at least a half-dozen States have given special attention to expanding the library services available to rural people. In Caswell County, North Carolina, the planning committee has cooperated with school and library officials in obtaining a special WPA library project for the county. In Kern County, California, the planning committee has had the assistance of representatives of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare in working out a plan for improving library facilities in rural areas of the county.

Rural Mail Routes

A number of committees have assisted in the preparation of maps showing new proposed mail routes. In Utah, a new mail route was approved and put into operation largely as a result of county planning activities.

A community planning committee in Idaho discovered, among other things, that the existing rural mail route did not adequately serve the farmers of the community due to changes in the location of farm houses. They drew up a proposed new route which was accepted by the postal authorities.

Other Examples of Planning Activities

Planning committees have taken an active part also in promoting livestock and crop improvement activities, in establishing grazing districts, and in encouraging the initiation of weed, insect, rodent and predatory animal control programs.

Local planning committees have been helpful, too, in facilitating coordinated planning on individual farms. Working closely with various agricultural agencies, they have helped to develop individual plans for a number of demonstration farms in their localities.

In the cut-over regions and submarginal areas, county planning committees are working closely with public land purchase projects and assisting with the development of plans for the management and use of such lands. A number of committees are working on problems associated with the relocation of farmers displaced by public land purchases. In Wing County, Missouri, the relocation of farmers from the Wappapello Flood Control Basin was a major activity of the local planning committee.

A number of counties have manifested special interest in developing the recreational resources of their areas as a means of supplementing regular farm income. Several have assisted in taking recreational inventories to determine local recreational needs and resources.

In January, 1,318 county committees assisted in furnishing data for the Department regarding the estimated cost of family-type farms. Some communities have held landlord-tenant schools and studied the local tenant situation as a means of arriving at a clearer understanding of the problem.

Under the impetus of the cooperative planning process, increased attention has been given to farm family living problems. In El Paso County, Colorado, for example, the planning committee has worked with the county commissioners in establishing a county nursing unit. The program includes immunization, pre-natal care, baby clinics and study groups. Planning committees are seeking also to improve the domestic water supply. Several States are continuing the investigation of freezer-lockers as a means of developing adequate storage facilities for home produced food.

Rural youth subcommittees have been established in a number of States and are working on problems of vocational guidance, training and placement of rural youth. A number have initiated local studies to determine the situation, desires and needs of the young people in their areas. In Ross County, Ohio, a special rural youth leader has been employed by the National Youth Administration and the Extension Service in an effort to follow up and implement a local youth survey that was completed in that county recently at the request of the county planning committee.

During the year, a number of States have devoted renewed attention to acquainting local committeemen and the rural populace with the purpose and philosophy of the cooperative planning program. In some places, notably Florida and South Dakota, this function has been accomplished by means of a series of community training schools. These were followed with as much additional help at planning meetings as the county agents, the assistants in planning, and other technicians could give.

These are but a few of the many activities and accomplishments which can be attributed to the cooperative planning program as it has operated during the past year. Naturally, other benefits will be mani-

festated as the work advances, for the planning process serves as a leaven and time is required to culminate many of the ends which it is designed to achieve. Working side by side with their governmental representatives and with skilled scientists, American farmers are in a much better position to cope effectively with the many problems and exigencies which lie ahead.

V. AGRICULTURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE STATES, COUNTIES, AND COMMUNITIES

Further significant progress during the past year has been made in building an effective planning organization in the States, counties and communities. By June 30, 1941, all but one State (Pennsylvania), and almost two-thirds of the counties (1,891) throughout the country were formally organized and active in the planning program. (Figure 2). Additional counties, under the leadership of the State Extension Services, held preliminary educational meetings relative to the planning work during the past year, preparing the way for county and community organization, and furnishing the State Committees with information relative to the estimated cost of family-type farms, the local farm labor situation, and suggestions for a State unified agricultural program.

State Agricultural Planning Committees

Several State Committees have increased their farmer membership, and brought additional agencies into the planning work during the past year. The 47 State Committees had a total membership of 1,371, including 565 farm men, 113 farm women, 304 representatives of USDA agencies, 76 representatives of other Federal agencies, and 313 representatives of State and local agencies. Figure 3 shows the size and composition of the State Committees in the various States. Figure 4 shows the number of days the State Committees and their executive committees and various subcommittees were in session during the year.

Represented on practically all of the State Committees were the following agencies of the U. S. Department of Agriculture: the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Security Administration, the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Farm Credit Administration. In a lesser number of States, the Rural Electrification Administration, the Surplus Marketing Administration, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering were represented.

The cooperating Federal agencies most frequently represented on the State Committees were the Public Roads Administration (38), the Fish and Wildlife Service (23), the Grazing Service (6), the Bureau of Reclamation (5), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (4).

The representation of numerous State agencies on the State Committee lends additional strength to the planning organization. In each of the States the State Director of the Agricultural Extension Service serves as chairman of the committee. Also represented on each of the committees is the State Agricultural Experiment Station. In a few instances the chairman represents both the Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service. The State Department of Conservation and Forestry is represented in 35 States, the State Highway Commission in 26, the State Department of Agriculture in 26, the State Department of Education in 24, the State Planning Board in 21, and the State Board of Health in 7. Typical of the numerous miscellaneous agencies represented on some of the State Committees are the State Tax Commissions, the State Livestock Sanitation Boards, the State Commerce Divisions, the State Engineering Divisions, the State Land Banks, and various regulatory agencies.

In all States the Joint Land-Grant College-BAE Committee serves as a work and service committee for the State Committee. Its membership of three, representing the Extension Service and the Experiment Station of the Land-Grant College and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is usually located in the same building, or nearby, which facilitates its conferring about the planning work at any time that the need arises. In a number of States the committee aims also to meet at regular intervals.

State Agricultural Planning Committees have set up subcommittees to give special attention to such matters as soil and water conservation, national defense, farm labor, agricultural adjustment, rural welfare, forestry, farm credit, marketing, education, and public services. Altogether the States reported 339 such subcommittees, or an average of seven or eight per State. On the average, each of these subcommittees held two meetings during the year. In some cases, the work of these subcommittees served as the basis for recommendations on special topics which were included in State unified agricultural program reports. More frequently, however, the work of these subcommittees resulted in the development of special plans and programs, and in the coordination of action to give effect to the recommendations of the subcommittees.

MEMBERSHIP OF STATE AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES, JUNE 30, 1941

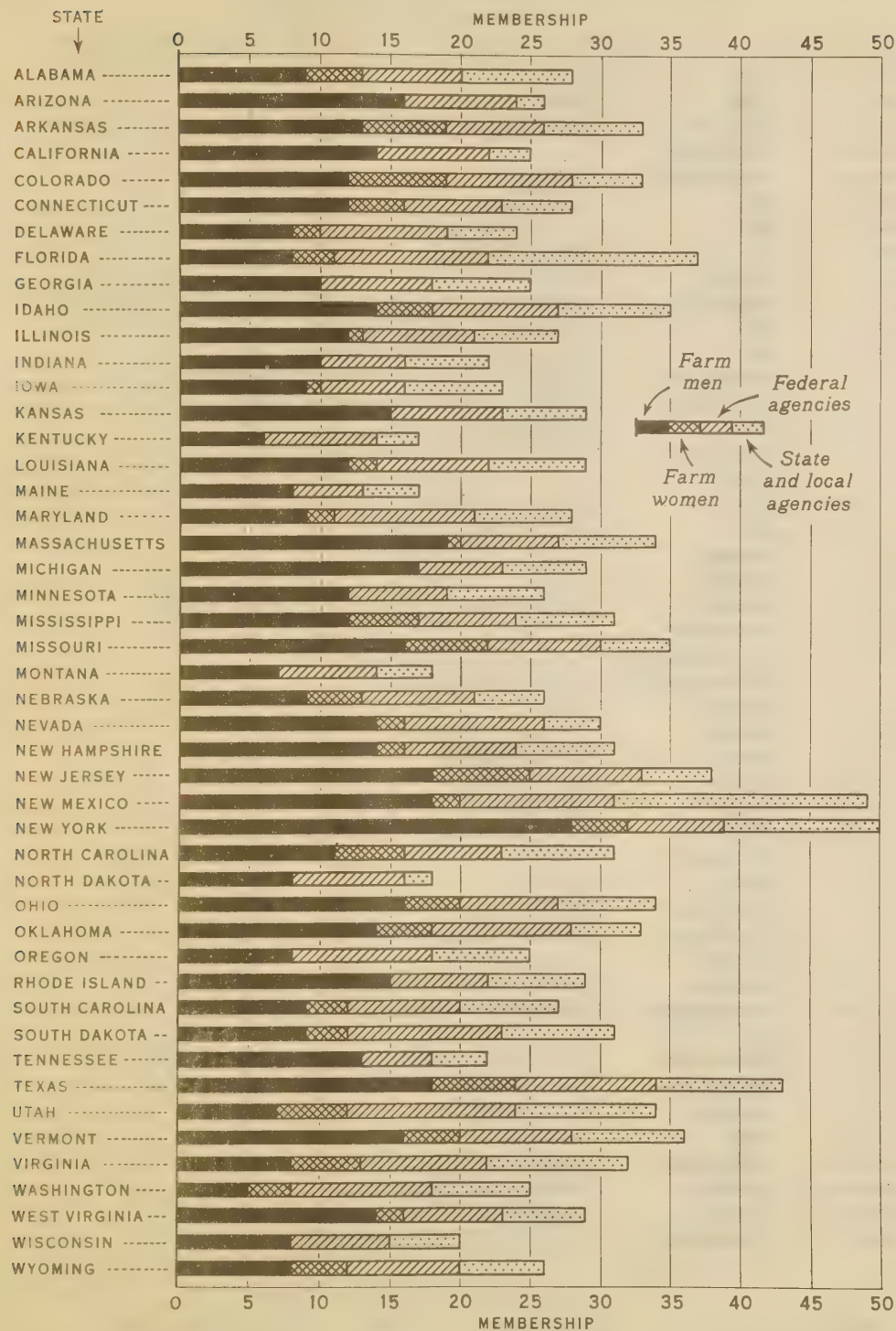


FIGURE 3

MEETINGS OF STATE AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES, BY STATES. JULY 1, 1940 - JUNE 30, 1941



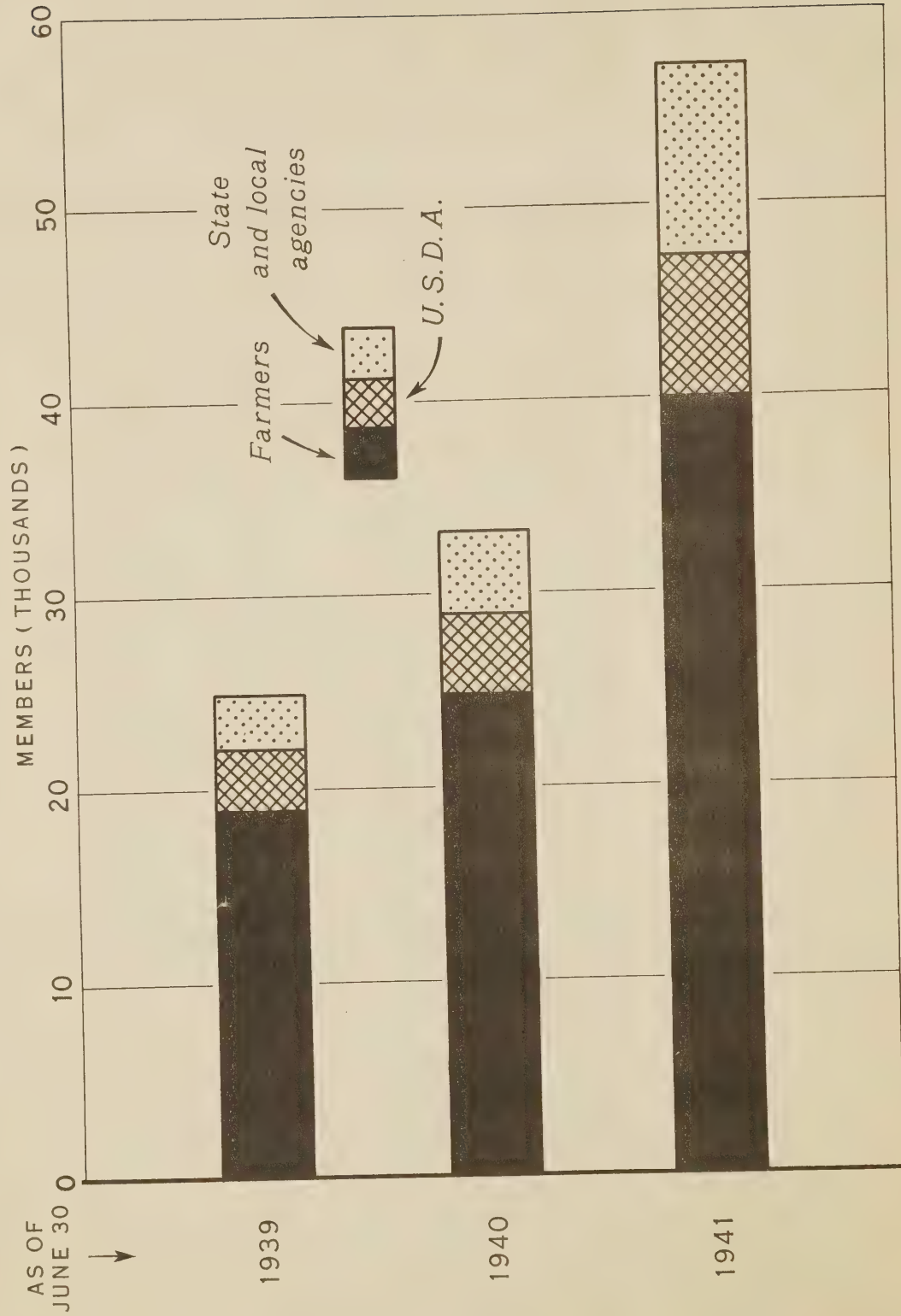
FIGURE 4

County Agricultural Planning Committees

County agricultural planning committees have been organized in 1,804 counties. Of these, 1,113 had both county and community planning committees, while the remaining 691 had county committees but no community committees. See Table 1 for detail by States, and Figure 2 for detail by counties.

Altogether, 57,313 persons were serving on the county planning committees, including 40,002 farm men and women, 7,425 representatives of USDA agencies, 295 representatives of cooperating agencies, and 9,591 representatives of State and local agencies or organizations. Figure 5 shows the trend in membership of county agricultural planning committees from 1939 to 1941. Figure 6 shows the percent of all counties in each State which have organized county agricultural planning committees. (Table 2 gives further data concerning agency representation). County committees reported holding 5,966 county committee meetings last year. The typical county committee meeting was attended by 14 farm men and women, 5 agency representatives, and 3 non-members.

MEMBERSHIP ON COUNTY PLANNING COMMITTEES, 1939, 1940, AND 1941



NEG. 39804 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

FIGURE 5

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1941



PERCENTAGE OF COUNTIES HAVING ORGANIZED COUNTY PLANNING COMMITTEES, JUNE 30, 1941

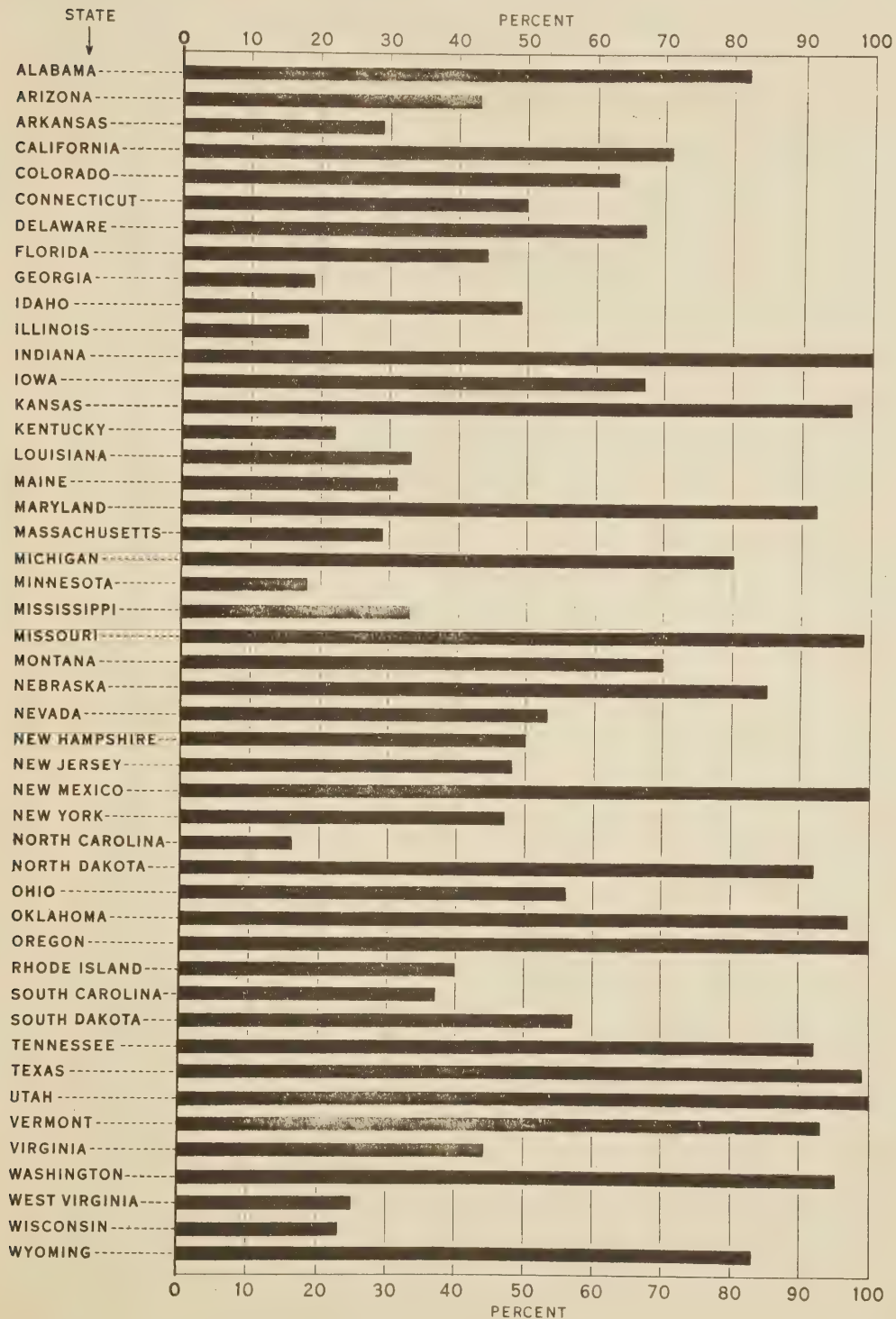


FIGURE 6

TABLE I - NUMBER OF COUNTIES ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL
PLANNING. BY STATES - June 30, 1941

State	Total No. of Counties	Number of Counties Organized				State	Total No. of Counties	Number of Counties Organized			
		Total	County and Community *	County Only **	Community Only ***			Total	County and Community	County Only	Community Only
All States		1891	1113	691	87						
Alabama	67	60	52	3	5	Nevada	17	11	5	4	2
Arizona	14	6	6	-	-	New Hamp.	10	7	4	1	2
Arkansas	75	23	8	14	1	New Jersey	21	10	4	10	-
California	58	41	13	28	-	New Mexico	31	31	21	10	-
Colorado	63	48	32	8	8	New York	62	29	-	29	-
Connecticut	8	4	1	3	-	N. C.	100	22	14	2	6
Delaware	3	2	1	1	-	N. D.	53	49	44	5	-
Florida	67	14	6	6	2	Ohio	88	49	27	22	-
Georgia	161	48	30	-	18	Oklahoma	77	75	29	46	-
Idaho	44	23	13	8	2	Oregon	36	36	22	14	-
Illinois	102	16	5	10	1	Penna.	-	-	-	-	-
Indiana	92	92	90	2	-	R. I.	5	2	1	1	-
Iowa	99	66	2	66	-	S. C.	46	17	12	5	-
Kansas	105	102	49	53	-	S. D.	69	39	23	16	-
Kentucky	120	33	23	3	7	Tenn.	95	95	74	13	8
Louisiana	64	21	7	14	-	Texas	254	251	146	105	-
Maine	16	16	5	-	11	Utah	29	29	11	18	-
Maryland	24	22	6	16	-	Vermont	14	13	12	1	-
Mass.	14	8	3	1	4	Virginia	100	44	44	-	-
Michigan	83	69	49	17	3	Wash.	39	38	18	19	1
Minnesota	87	18	9	7	2	West Va.	55	14	7	7	-
Mississippi	82	30	3	24	3	Wisconsin	71	16	8	8	-
Missouri	115	114	114	-	-	Wyoming	23	20	15	4	1
Montana	56	39	25	14	-						
Nebraska	93	79	26	53	-						

* In 1,113 counties both county and community committees have been organized

** In 691 counties, county committees have been organized but community committees have not (this number is not included in the 1,113)

*** In 87 counties, community committees have been organized but county committees have not.

TABLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES,
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1941

State	Total Membership	Farmer Members		USDA Representatives						Cooperating Fed. Agency Representatives 2/	State and Local Agency Reps.				
		Men	Women	AAA	FSA	SCS	FCA	Other 1/	Total		Co. Ext. Ser.	Pub. Sch. ools	Co. and Local Govt.	Other 3/	Total
Ala.	1333	650	129	55	110	42	22	14	243	12	110	110		79	299
Ariz.	101	56	1	6	6	4		5	21	3	10	1	4	5	20
Ark.	414	170	90	23	25	20		4	72		44	23		15	82
Calif.	844	507	2	41	28	41	34	27	181	4	41	18	33	58	150
Colo.	1617	814	248	81	37	31	23	34	206	19	53	90	87	100	330
Conn.	128	65	15	4	4	2	4		14		15	5	2	12	34
Del.	44	29	6		1		1		2	1	4	1		1	6
Fla.	284	185	41		23	9	13	4	49	1	23	14	1	20	58
Ga.	629	321	10	28	38	18	26	10	120	1	57	71		49	177
Idaho	471	273	34	23	22	9	10	23	87	17	21	5	20	9	55
Ill.	235	116	38	13	12	12	12	1	50		23	2	1	5	31
Ind.	4360	3793	84	91	78	33	54	21	277		113	39	47	7	206
Iowa	1734	1131	138	73	76	34	73	16	272	5	92	50	31	15	188
Kans.	3151	1956	280	102	102	75	105	41	425		173	129	89	99	490
Ky.	680	410	51	26	26	12	26	24	114		35	42	13	15	105
La.	661	220	83	37	57	13	41	5	153	5	56	55	14	75	200
Maine	83	42	11	5	5	4	3	1	18		5	3	1	3	12
Md.	679	270	159	22	21	8	31	8	90	8	54	26	5	67	152
Mass.	144	79	9	4	4	4	5	5	22	1	10	5	1	17	33
Mich.	1592	1017	16	62	34	15	23	20	154		75	75	25	230	405
Minn.	411	260	8	20	16	8	9	3	56		10	16	38	23	87
Miss.	1162	641	214	11	49	25	6	13	104		67	71		65	203
Mo.	3214	1418	946	114	113	96	76	10	409		213	102		124	441
Mont.	1060	733	66	33	27	11	6	28	105	19	39	13	46	39	137
Nebr.	1344	820	112	74	82	31	23	17	227		89	20	22	54	185
Nev.	135	61	17	2	6	4	1	5	18	12	13	2	1	11	27
N. H.	134	100	4	1	3		2	4	10	1	15		1	3	19
N. J.	203	114	21	8	12	5	5		30		22	7	6	3	38
N. Mex.	1029	618	91	29	50	31	10	53	173	40	47	6	12	42	107
N. Y.	1030	553	114	27	35	11	16	11	100		71	55	60	77	263
N. C.	615	336	153	13	16	9	10	3	51	6	21	27	5	16	69
N. D.	1198	856	6	49	49	28	19	18	163	5	53	12	49	54	169
Ohio	1379	819	134	66	56	32	48	9	211		75	72	29	39	215
Okla.	3445	1795	893	75	159	65	54	35	388	34	159	66	10	100	335
Ore.	607	478	2	45	2	2	2	2	53	11	36	1	11	15	63
Penna.															
R. I.	56	37	3	2	2	2	3		9		5	2			7
S. C.	563	289	102	17	18	15	17	23	90	1	43	17		21	81
S. D.	1148	643	63	44	40	42	79	32	237	5	67	10	75	48	200
Tenn.	1684	680	317	67	167	16	2	16	268	1	227	167	2	22	418
Tex.	7476	2870	1362	251	435	251	296	56	1289	7	438	803	219	488	1948
Utah	2927	1622	572	75	54	26	19	41	215	29	41	66	82	300	489
Vt.	532	320	110	22	8	1	6	1	38		38	13	1	12	64
Va.	4112	2308	1174	44	99	26	83	18	270	23	100	155	11	71	337
Wash.	758	444	55	37	30	21	21	26	135	4	68	6	28	18	120
W. Va.	481	260	41	14	14	5			33		35	42		70	147
Wis.	578	169	32	26	24	14	19	10	93	6	33	35	104	106	278
Wyo.	848	359	293	17	24	14	9	16	80	14	22	22	15	53	112
Totals	57,313	31,662	8340	1879	2309	1177	1347	713	7425	295	3061	2572	1201	2757	9591

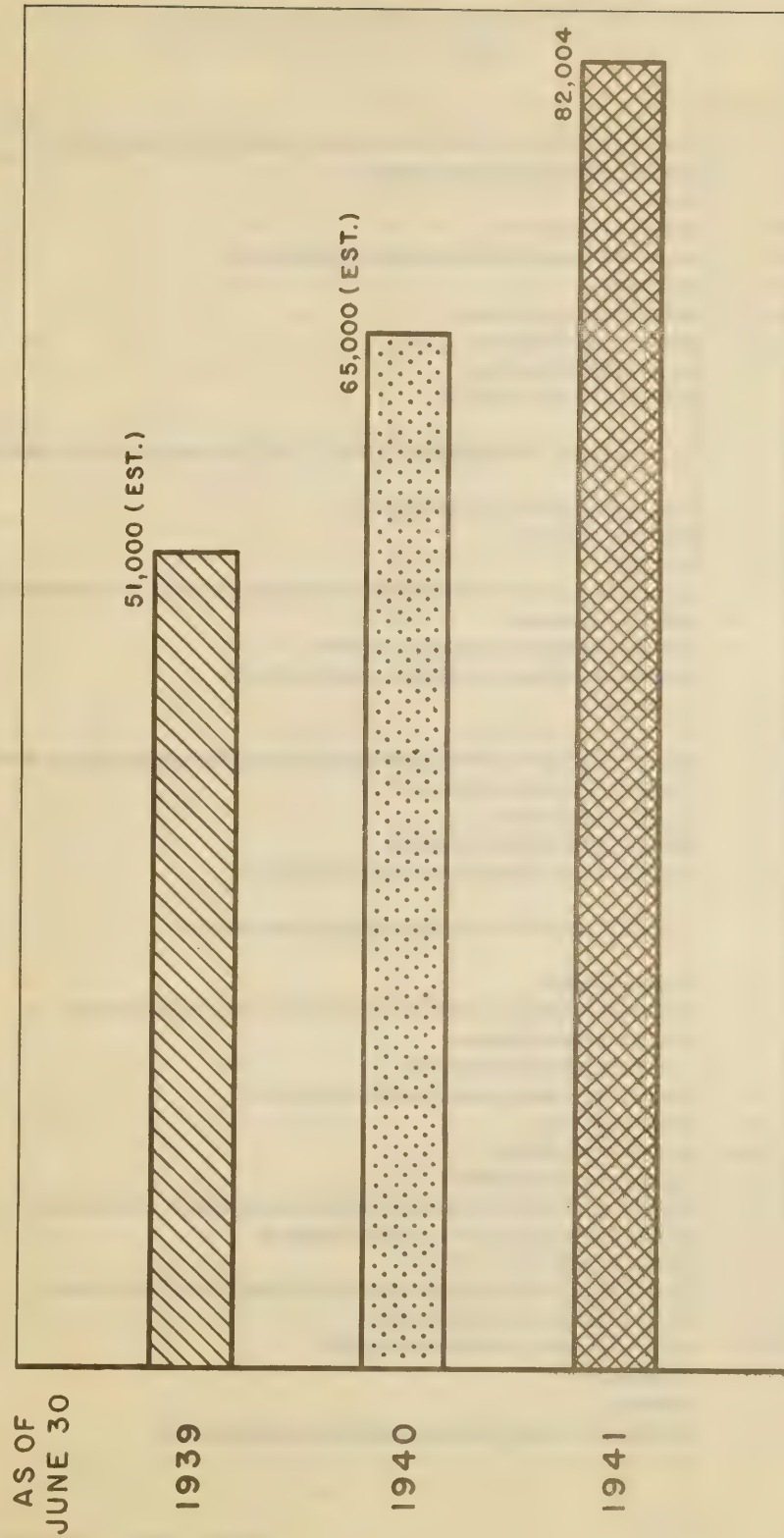
- 1/ Includes 393 Forest Service and 227 Rural Electrification Administration.
2/ Includes 65 Grazing Service, 57 Bur. of Indian Affairs, 46 Fish and Wildlife Service and 20 Bureau of Reclamation.
3/ Includes 415 Dept. Forestry and Conservation, 341 Soil Cons. Dist. Supervisors, 295 Dept. Public Health and 247 Dept. Public Welfare.

Community Agricultural Planning Committees

Altogether, 1,200 of the 1,891 planning counties were organized on a community basis (Table 1). Within these counties, more than 10,000 community committees were active last year. These local committees were composed principally of farm men and women from the various neighborhoods. Incomplete returns indicate that more than 82,000 farm men and women served on these community committees last year. Advised by their county agricultural agents and assisted occasionally by the local agricultural teacher or other professional agricultural workers, these local committees comprised a very important part of the agricultural planning organization. Figure 7 shows the trend in membership of community agricultural planning committees from 1939-1941 and Figure 8 shows the percent of all counties in each State which have organized community agricultural planning committees.

Nearly 27,000 community planning meetings were held during the past year. More than 8,000 of these meetings were open to all interested farm people, while the remainder were confined for the most part to the membership of the community committees. Average attendance at open community meetings was approximately 35 people, while community planning committee meetings averaged 15 farm men and women members, one agency representative, and three non-members who were either farm people or professional agricultural workers.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEES



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 39852 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

FIGURE 7

PERCENTAGE OF COUNTIES HAVING ORGANIZED COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEES, JUNE 30, 1941

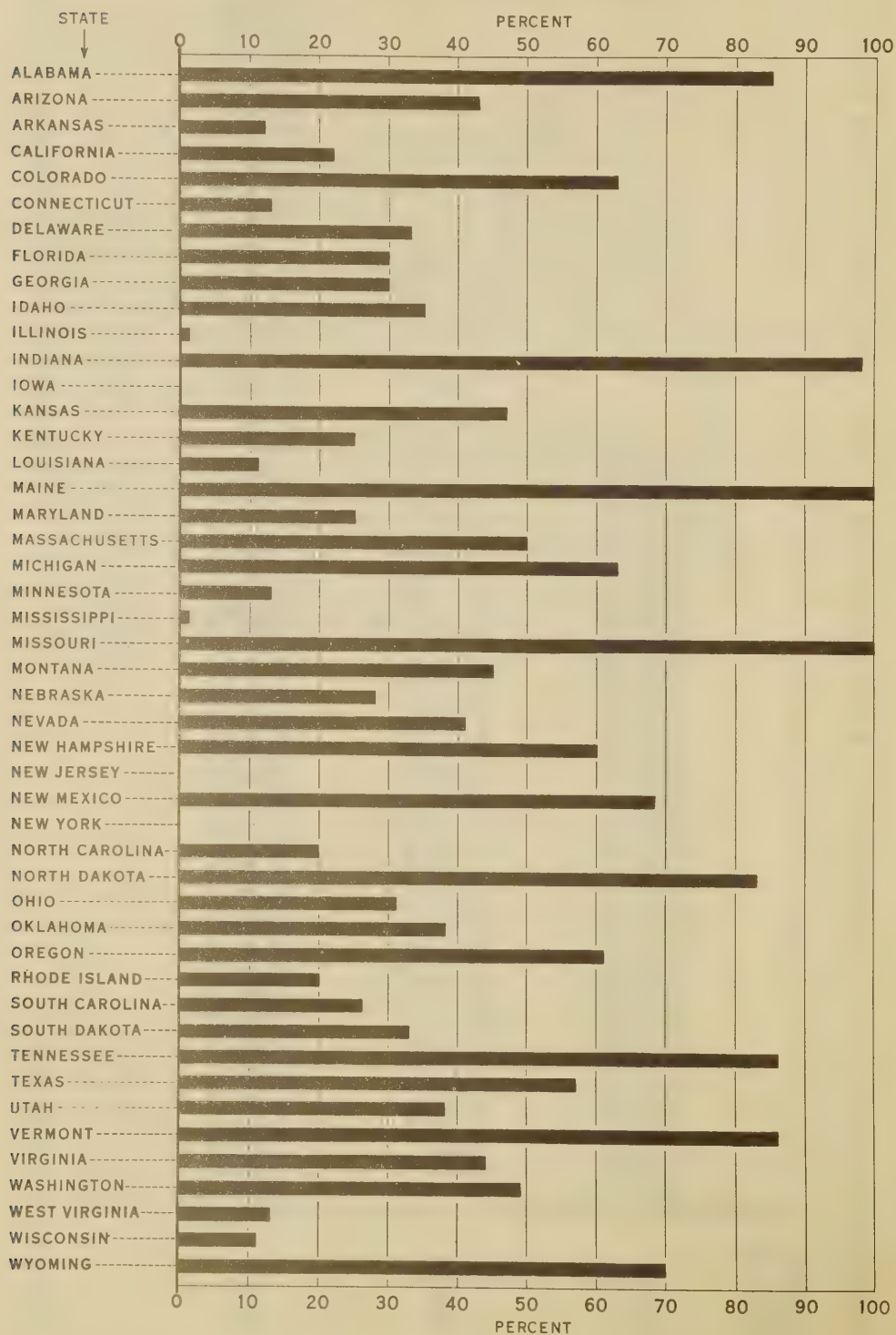


FIGURE 8

VI. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH FOR AGRICULTURAL PLANNING

Since the effectiveness of agricultural planning is dependent to a large measure upon the technical soundness of the plans developed, it is important that the planning committees have adequate factual information for their guidance. In assembling such data, the State and local committees have had the assistance of local government officials, public schools, the State Extension Services, the State Experiment Stations, the research divisions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the several action agencies of the Department, and Federal agencies outside the Department, such as the Work Projects Administration and the National Youth Administration.

Participation in the planning work has helped rural people to see anew the practical value which research and technical assistance can have for farmers, their families and their communities. Agricultural planning seldom progresses very far before the need for technical assistance or basic information becomes evident. Thus cooperative agricultural planning has served to focus attention on the need for, and the place of, scientific research in the development of a sound and permanent agricultural program.

The State Agricultural Experiment Stations and the several agencies of the Department have recognized these needs, and have made further significant progress in meeting them. In addition to continuing their regular research activities, many of which have been shaped in the light of planning needs, these agencies have helped to sponsor numerous service activities and short-time surveys in answer to requests from planning groups. A number of these are described in the annual reports of the various research divisions of the Bureau, and others are discussed below.

Farmers Participate in Collecting Data

An interesting development growing out of the cooperative planning work has been the contribution which farmers themselves have been able to make in conducting simple, short-time surveys, when given a small amount of assistance. Notable examples of this type of work have been discussed in the preceding section dealing with the work of planning committees in areas of defense activity. Participation of farm men and women in local fact-finding has been augmented by the utilization of planning subcommittees, the members of which are usually chosen on the basis of their interests and capabilities. Participation of this sort has had the effect of speeding up research and reducing its costs.

Land-Grant College-BAE Committees Aid in Coordinating Research Proposals

Planning committees' requests for research and technical assistance are usually cleared through the Land-Grant College-BAE Committee, which includes representatives of the State Experiment Station, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and the State Extension Service. The committee usually reviews the research applications, considers the priority which each should receive, and refers them to the proper research agencies for further consideration and action.

Many Agencies Participate

Research and technical assistance has been contributed likewise by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Security Administration, the Surplus Marketing Administration, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Rural Electrification Administration, and other Bureaus of this Department. Important contributions have been made by numerous other Federal, State, and local agencies. A number of these are alluded to in other sections of this report.

Types of Technical Assistance Received

Technical assistance has consisted of such activities as giving consultatory services, developing fact-gathering forms, training local interviewers, outlining planning procedures, tabulating and interpreting brief field studies, delineating neighborhoods and communities, compiling data from secondary sources, summarizing and collating pertinent research studies, editing agricultural planning digests, publishing State agricultural handbooks and preparing and reproducing maps and reports.

Illustrative of these services are the advice received by planning committees from tax officials and soil conservation technicians, the survey forms developed by the State planning leaders in connection with the housing of defense workers, and the relocation of farm families displaced by public land purchase projects, the training of local interviewers in connection with the rural youth studies in Indiana, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, and other States, the making of reconnaissance land-use surveys, the summarization of previous land-use studies, and the drafting of proposed drainage laws and of rural zoning enabling acts in consultation with and for the use of appropriate sponsoring agencies. Technicians of State agencies and of the Department of Agriculture have assisted also in reviewing the highway recommendations of local planning committees, in making analyses of local agricultural credit facilities, in making studies of local market conditions and transportation costs, in surveying the need for cold storage facilities, and in inventorying the farm labor situation. In North Carolina and Vermont, maps of existing electrical facilities were provided by local power companies to help committees in planning line extensions.

Water Facilities and Flood Control Research and Planning

State and county agricultural planning committees have cooperated actively with agency technicians in numerous water facilities and flood control studies. This has been particularly true in the 17 Western States where the need for water conservation is greatest. Water use subcommittees of State Agricultural Planning Committees have been established in several States in the West. County planning committees have utilized the services of water facilities technicians in developing the agricultural plans for their localities, and the water facilities work has been advanced by the committees' recommending areas for planning, supplying basic information, and reviewing area plans. The local committees have initiated requests for water facilities plans, and the State Committees have worked with the Water Facilities Board in determining the priorities that should be granted such requests.

Local planning committees have assisted also in defining their water problems, and given their recommendations as to the proper solution. These services have been of great assistance to the technicians responsible for the preparation of water facilities plans.

One of the outstanding water facilities area plans developed with the assistance of State and local agricultural planning committees is that of the Republican River Watershed in Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. Water facilities technicians and the State planning personnel have cooperated closely in the development of this project. In arriving at an area plan, the technicians combined the planning committees' recommendations with the research data they had collected. Copies of the resulting area plan were then left with the planning committees in order that the information contained therein might be used in subsequent planning activities. A number of county planning committees have revised their agricultural plans in light of this additional information. In South Dakota, the State Agricultural Planning Committee cooperated with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and State Experiment Station in the preparation of a report concerning "Water-Land Resources and Problems in South Dakota."

Cooperative research between agricultural planning committees and flood control technicians is being developed in a manner similar to that for the Water Facilities Program. Flood control technicians have met with county committees to explain their program, and to enlist their aid. The committees have information concerning flood control damages, and have presented recommendations for desirable adjustments and watershed protection. Procedures are now being developed to further expedite and encourage this type of collaboration, which is well illustrated by progress which has been made in the development of an area flood control plan in the Coosa Basin located above Rome, Georgia. Agricultural planning committees in eighteen counties in the Basin cooperated with Bureau of Agricultural Economics flood control experts in a survey. Flood control subcom-

mittees were organized to work closely with these experts in collecting information on land use and flood damage, and in working out methods of flood control. A report on this work served as the basis for the development of a comprehensive flood control plan for the Basin, and served also as a basis for modifying the long-time planning objectives of the agricultural planning committees for better land use in the area.

The Agricultural Planning Committee in Merrimack County, New Hampshire, has worked in close cooperation with Department technicians in making an area flood control survey, and has encouraged passage of a State law legalizing purchases by local governmental units of properties which have become isolated following the development of a local flood control project.

VII. LINES OF AGRICULTURAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES BEING EMPHASIZED DURING 1941-42

A. State Committee Activities

1. As a part of the national ~~war~~ effort, all State Committees should be encouraged to aid in the development of State plans for the necessary expansion in the production of vital foods and fiber. This activity should involve close collaboration with the Department of Agriculture defense boards and other agencies and should give attention to such emergency matters in this field as the situation warrants from time to time.
2. State Committees should be encouraged to continue work on their unified State programs and to develop their second progress statements by June 1, 1942. Utilizing the work reflected in current State reports as a nucleus for continued planning efforts, the next steps in State planning should involve:
 - a. Establishment or continuation of needed subcommittees to concentrate upon pressing problems, such as farm labor, health and nutrition, special ~~war~~ problems, public land management, assistance to disadvantaged families, conservation, production of food for ~~freedom~~, and others.
 - b. Concentration of committee effort upon working out arrangements with agencies and farm groups for getting action upon recommendations.
 - c. The work of State Committees and county committees integrated more closely in carrying forward the State program by making pertinent parts of the State Committee report available to county committees; by requesting appropriate counties to determine the applicability of this program to conditions in the county and suggest

needed modifications or extensions; and by requesting local committees to assist in getting local action on the State Committees' recommendations.

- d. Each State Committee should analyze the regional summary of the first unified program reports as a basis for rounding out its State agricultural programs and for reconciling differences in points of view between States and the region.
 - e. In States where legislatures are meeting this winter, encouragement should be given to State Committees to develop suggestions on needed State legislation to aid in carrying out provisions of the State agricultural program and to present this information to appropriate organizations and individuals.
3. Continued emphasis should be directed to planning for post-war adjustments as touched upon in practically all reports of the various State planning committees. This work should be closely correlated with the Interbureau and field committees of the Department to whom the Secretary assigned specific responsibility for post-war planning within the Department itself.

B. County Planning Activities

Encourage county committees, in those counties where effective planning committees have been functioning, to continue work upon those problems determined locally to be of particular significance. In addition, every effectively organized county and community committee should be encouraged to devote a substantial portion of its time to the following three activities:

1. Developing county plans to aid in meeting the food and other requirements for war. Such plans include consideration of -
 - a. Production goals for vital products in keeping with wise land use and farm management.
 - b. Production for home use as a part of the nutritional program.
 - c. Planning for the sound utilization of "idle acres" and the elimination of unwise extension of the agricultural plant.
 - d. Determining the safe limits to which production of particular products in given areas can be expanded. This should include the development and maintenance of current information on favorable and unfavorable conditions for production adjustments, such as credit, feed reserves,

capacity of processing plants, land capability, labor situation, etc. This activity will serve as a valuable basis for subsequent emergency crop and livestock adjustment activities.

2. Collaborating with State Committees in working out the local adaptation of appropriate parts of the unified State program.
3. Undertaking the first steps in planning for post-war adjustments by, first, developing an inventory of desirable rural work projects in the county, and second, cooperating with agency representatives in the formulation of individual work projects proposals. In this effort planning committees and the particular agency representatives involved should give special attention to type, location, size, and priorities of work projects, including the appraisal of relative benefits and costs, the amount of public assistance needed, and appropriate sponsorship of such projects. Other features of post-war planning will involve consideration of future utilization of existing war industries, extent and methods of reabsorbing families in agriculture, and other types of readjustment.

